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A BRIEF HISTORY OF REV. SAMUEL LANDER, SENIOR,  
AND HIS WIFE ELIZA ANN (MILLER) LANDER.

THEIR TWO SONS WILLIAM LANDER AND SAMUEL LANDER  
AND THEIR GRANDSON SAMUEL A. WEBER

By

William Lander Sherrill

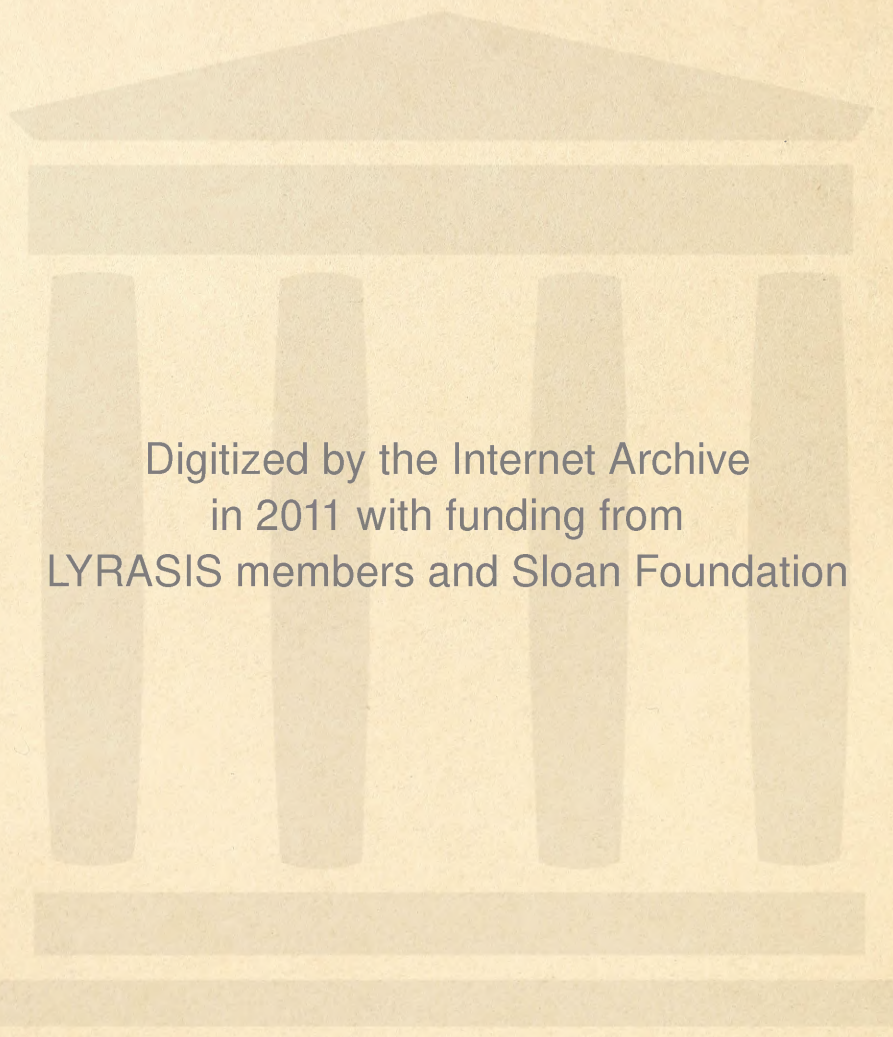












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# A Brief History of the Lander Family

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1918







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A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF  
REV. SAMUEL LANDER, Senior  
AND HIS WIFE  
ELIZA ANN (MILLER) LANDER  
Late of Lincolnton, N. C.

THEIR TWO SONS  
WILLIAM LANDER  
AND  
SAMUEL LANDER

AND THEIR GRANDSON  
SAMUEL A. WEBER

BY  
WILLIAM LANDER SHERRILL







## INTRODUCTION

North Carolinians are modest people who strive constantly to obey the State motto: *Esse quam videri*, for they are in general so diligently engaged in the duties of the present that they forget to preserve the records of the past. This brief history of the Lander family has been prepared in order that the younger generation may have better knowledge of forebears who wrought well in their day and left to their descendants a record of which they need not be ashamed.

William Lander Sherrill,

Charlotte, N. C.

February 1, 1918.



**Reverend Samuel Lander, Senior**

and his wife

**Mrs. Eliza Ann (Miller) Lander**

Rev. Samuel Lander, Sr., (son of William Lander) was born in Tipperary, Ireland, November 12, 1792. His ancestors migrated from England several generations before. Eliza Ann Miller, whom he married October 12, 1812, was born May 1, 1793 in Ballingran, Ireland. Her early ancestors were Lutherans who on account of Roman Catholic persecution fled from Alsace-Lorraine and settled in Southern Ireland. About the same time many other citizens of the Palatinate country, for the same reason, migrated to America and were the ancestors of the sturdy and frugal Dutch of Lincoln, Catawba and Gaston counties, in North Carolina.

It is worthy of mention that Mr. and Mrs. Lander were confirmed as members in the English church in the same class when strangers to each other.

The Millers were staunch church people, but even in the early days of Methodism were tolerant of the new sect and more than once entertained John Wesley when he visited the city of Cork.

The fact has been handed down in the family that on one occasion when Wesley was preaching in the Miller home in Cork, using a table for a pulpit, that Adam, one of the smaller children, was asleep under the table, and Mr. Wesley preaching on the fall of Adam and Eve, when describing the scene in the garden, quoted in a loud voice the scripture: "Adam, where art thou?" This aroused the sleeping child, who replied, "here I am under the table." This amusing incident created merriment in the congregation.

The Millers later joined the Methodists and to this day the great body of their descendents are active members of the Methodist churches of Ireland, Canada and the United States.

On account of Catholic intolerance Mr. Lander came to



America landing in Boston in September 1818 and soon thereafter was convinced that his best interests would be promoted in this new country, so he soon sent for Mrs. Lander and the two children, Anne (who afterwards married Mr. John Weber and became the mother of Rev. Dr. Samuel A. Weber of South Carolina) and William, (a sketch of whose life appears in this pamphlet).

The family then dwelt for a short while in Newark, N. J., after which they moved southward, lingering for a time in Washington City and also in Lexington, Va., but in 1824 they had reached Salisbury, N. C., where Mr. Lander took out naturalization papers and became a full fledged American citizen, as shown by the following record.

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State of North Carolina,  
Rowan County.

Be it remembered that heretofore, to wit, at a Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions begun and held for the county of Rowan at the Court House in Salisbury on the third Monday in August A. D. One thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, (1824) and in the forty-ninth year of our Independence.

The following Record is made, to wit:

"State of North Carolina,                      Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions  
Rowan County.    August Sessions 1824.

Samuel Lander a native of Ireland, being desirous of becoming a citizen of the United States, and of making a Declaration of his intention being sworn in due form of Law, deposeth and sayeth, That it is his bona fida intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly all allegiance and fidelity to his Majesty George the 4th King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. He further states that he is a native of the County of Tipperary in Ireland, that he is thirty-one years old, and a subject of George the 4th., King of Great Britain, &c, and to whom he still owes allegiance. That he sailed from the City of Cork on the 18th day of April 1818, and landed in the City of Boston in the State of Massachusetts on the 18th day of May 1818 and has resided since that period in the United States, and for the last eight months in North Carolina. In testimony whereof he has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal this 17th day of August 1824, and in the 49th year of American Independence.

Samuel Lander (Seal.)

Upon the filing of the Declaration the Petitioner Samuel Lander appeared in open Court and took the oath of allegiance to the State of North Carolina, as prescribed by Law."



North Carolina,  
Rowan County.

I John Giles clerk of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Record.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Office the 19th day of June 1824.

John Giles Clk.

By John H. Hardie, D. C.

While living in Salisbury their home was destroyed by fire, in which they lost all their effects.

Soon thereafter they moved to Lincolnton where they spent the remainder of their lives.

While, as already stated, Mr. Lander was confirmed in his youth as a member of the Church of England, he was nevertheless, a man of the world, showing little interest in things religious, but in August 1828, by the invitation of the Rev. Jacob Hill, he attended the Rock Spring Camp meeting in Lincoln County and there under the preaching of Malcolm McPherson, the Presiding Elder and Hartwell Spain the preacher in charge, he was deeply convicted and powerfully converted. He and his wife soon thereafter joined the Methodist church in Lincolnton and were faithful even unto the end.

In 1833 Mr. Lander was licensed to preach and continued a useful local preacher until his death. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Morris in 1838 and elder by Bishop Waugh in 1842. He was founder of Lander's Chapel, a church six miles south of Lincolnton.

It can be truthfully said of him, that he was a man of deep convictions, very rigid in his ideas of right and wrong, and scrupulously honest in all his business relations. He possessed a remarkably strong mind, he loved the truth, he hated sham and was the very soul of honor. He ever followed where conscience led and stood for the right no matter how great the cost.

When he came to Lincolnton he soon established himself as a Coach-maker, and his business grew and prospered so that he amassed a considerable fortune for that day.



Mrs. Lander was a woman refined by nature, of deep piety, with a brilliant and well furnished mind and a memory so acute that she never lost an incident or a date. Her knowledge of history was so accurate and her conversational gifts so attractive that she could entertain her friends by the hour, relating the romances and daring deeds of the English celebrities from the time of Alfred down to Victoria.

The study of history was her delight, though she defied the public opinion of her day and read some fiction, a great offense then for a minister's wife. She loved flowers and was wonderfully successful in growing them. Her flower garden in Lincolnton was at all seasons a delight to the eye.

The home-life of these people was beautiful and their children were trained to fear God and to love the church. One of the most sacred recollections of my early childhood is the time I spent in that home, and I never shall forget when at the morning and evening hour the family gathered for worship, how the old people sat, one at each side of the fireplace with the other members of the household between and the slaves in the rear while the patriarch read the lesson from the holy book and prayed.

Mr. Lander died on December 17, 1864. The Rev. E. G. Gage, his pastor said of him:

"Those who most intimately knew him, had the greatest possible deference, both for his feelings and his opinions. He was a most perfect specimen of a high toned gentleman, having most perfect contempt for all that was low, mean, deceptive or dishonorable in character or practice."

Mrs Lander died December 29, 1875, and the bodies rest side by side in the family plot in the Methodist grave yard in Lincolnton.

For several years after they came to America fortune failed to smile upon them and they had a hard struggle all of which is explained in the following letter which was discovered and published several years ago:

Newmarket, Ireland, May 19th, 1832.

My Dear William,

I hasten to inform you that I have received a letter from Sam Lander and your Sister Eliza after an absence of fourteen years. After praying for forgiveness for their great neglect in not



writing before, they mentioned that they had ten years struggling, but about four years ago they went to live in Lincolnton, North Carolina, United States, where they joined the Methodist Society and began to serve the Lord with all their hearts, that then everything prospered with them. Since they left this country they had four children one of which, George, died at ten months old, the remaining children's names are, Anne, Wm. Margaret, Eliza and Sarah Catherine. Poor Eliza enjoyed good health and looks nearly as young as when she left Ireland. They do not expect to see us this side of the grave, but they do expect to meet us in a better world.. May God in great mercy bring all our family to his eternal Kingdom. He states that Methodism is rapidly spreading in America. He likes the country much, and enquires whether any of us are likely to cross the Atlantic. I intend to write them soon and will inform them of Poor Martha's\* voyage, and when I receive a letter from Murphy I intend to let them know their address, so that they may have mutual comfort. After Sam concluded his letter, Eliza with her own hand writes the following, which I copy for you. "Yes, my brother, I am still alive and in better health this year past than ever I have been. You know I was always so weakly. I am ashamed of myself for not writing before now. O pardon me my brother, and I never will be so ungrateful again, the reason for not writing was our unsettled situation till within these 4 years past, when we all began to serve the Lord with all our hearts. Since then everything we undertook, the Lord made it to prosper. The children join me in love to you all. I remain still your loving sister Eliza A. Lander." He promises to give a more exact account in his next letter.

May I trouble you to call to O'Grady's with the enclosed Note and receipt and get the balance for me L8 I I, which you will please to send by post, and when you do send it write a few lines to me by the man that drives the car. He leaves Patrick Street every second day at 2 o'clock. Let me know how the Cholera is in Cork, and whether any of my acquaintances died since I was there. Remember me affectionately to Anne and George and his wife. Tell him I called to see him one evening before I came away but could not get in.

I am, my dear William, your affectionate Brother,

Peter Miller.

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\*Martha referred to is Mrs. Martha Miller Murphy who was a sister of Mrs. Lander and the wife of Jeremiah W. Murphy, the teacher. The Murphys were staunch Episcopalians and their sons Rev. Joseph W. Murphy, Rev. William Murphy and Rev. Reginald Heber Murphy, all now deceased, were clergymen in the Protestant Episcopal Church. Two other children, Dr. Samuel W. Murphy of Washington City and Miss Hobart Murphy of Philadelphia are still living.

After the above letter was written the Murphy family found the way to Lincolnton and there Mr. Murphy for many years taught in the old Academy.



A pen-picture of these good people appeared in the Southern Christian Advocate about the year 1882, by the late Rev. Landy Wood of the South Carolina Conference as follows:

**The Rev. Samuel Lander, Sr.**

“The snow lay two inches deep when I drove into Lincolnton on the 14th day of December, 1855, and called at the hospitable residence of the above named gentleman. My “plan” had sent me a week in advance of the time when the people were expecting me. The parsonage was not ready for occupancy. He cordially invited us to lodge with him. It was well that we did so. His age and experience, and his knowledge of the people among whom and for whom I had been sent to labor, were wisely used to prepare me for entering intelligently upon my pastoral duties. The high estimation I then learned to put upon him and his family have never abated. He was a native of Ireland, and emigrated to this country and settled in Lincolnton soon after his marriage in early life. For several years he followed the ways of the world, as a man of the world, shrewd, sharp, industrious and successful in business. A coach maker by trade, he soon established a reputation for good workmanship and fidelity in the fulfillment of contracts which secured him a custom equal to the capacity of his shop, and this continued to the close of his life. On turning his mind to religion his naturally noble character shone forth with such a steady brilliant light as at once to command the ardent respect of all classes of society. He became zealous for the truth as held by the Methodists. Opposition called out all the faculties of his great mind and heart. He became a student of the scriptures, and strong in colloquial controversy. The new light which flashed upon his soul in the hour of his conversion burned with increasing lustre drawn from the sacred pages until he became a blazing light by which others might walk the path of life safely. His zeal could not be abated nor resisted. He burst forth with energy to assault the enemies of Christ, and subdue them to the sceptre of his kingdom. He was licensed to preach. He was



soon an acknowledged man of power in the pulpit. Feeling the truth of his own utterances he spoke with authority, and though respecting other creeds he never failed on suitable occasions to wave the banner of Methodism as worthy and certain to lead the hosts of Immanuel to victory. I met him in his riper years. As he appeared then I fancy I see him now—his stalwart form towering in the pulpit as he persuaded his neighbors in his full sonorous voice, not loud, but deep and heavy, to turn to God, or as he hurled the denunciations of the law against the wickedness of the times. Such a man could not labor in vain. As a preacher he was eminently practical, but by no means lacking in theory to harmonize every great truth with the doctrines and rules of the Methodist Church. He would often ascend to the loftiest plane of sublimity, and especially when on subjects relating to family government or Christian fellowship. He was a true Irishman, and one of the noblest specimens.

Although no man's enemy, he made no compromise with evil, and he despised deception in trade or hypocrisy in religion. His word was his bond, and no man thought of doubting it. He was a man of sterling integrity in all the relations of life.

The name of Samuel Lander deserves to be enrolled as a patriarch of Methodist preachers. Three of his immediate descendants are Methodist preachers. The Rev. Samuel Lander, D. D., now President of the Williamston Female College, in South Carolina, is his son; the Rev. John M. Lander, a Professor in the same College, is grand-son of the former, and son of the latter; and the Rev. S. A. Weber, editor of the Southern Christian Advocate, is his grand-son. The late Rev. Wm. I. Langdon, a prominent and eminently useful member of the North Carolina Conference in his brief day, was his son-in-law. The Rev. Geo. H. Wells, of the South Carolina Conference, married his grand-daughter, who now sleeps in the public cemetery at Conwayboro, S. C. Thus, five Methodist preachers are connected by immediate descent,



or marriage with his posterity. And there is not a man of them, but honors his name.\*

Mrs. Eliza Ann Lander, wife of the Rev. Samuel Lander, Sr., of Lincolnton, was also among the mothers in that day. She was a native of Ireland. It may be truly said that she was born in the Methodist Church, for at the time of her birth in 1793 her father's house was a preaching and meeting place of the Methodist Society of that neighborhood. In her quiet way she was ever doing good. So quiet and unobtrusive was she that few knew her open heart or hand until she came in the hour of grief or hardship to minister to their wants. The good deeds of such can never be duly honored here, for they are not done to be seen of men, but of God. If she fed the hungry she did not permit them to know she thought they needed her benefactions; if she clothed the naked, they never felt that she considered that they were paupers. A kind word and a pleasant smile she gave to all in trouble, or else she wept with those that wept. All her neighbors, and all the church loved her. Her children rise up and call her blessed. Their lives have honored her name.—They all became members of the Methodist Church in early life. I used to think her daughter Sarah, who afterwards married Mr. S. P. Sherrill and sank, alas! too soon into the grave, was the most devotedly pious young lady I ever knew.”

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\*Since the above appeared his grand-daughter Kathleen Lander was married to Rev. Dr. John O. Willson, now a member of the South Carolina Conference and President of Lander College.

A grand-son, William Lander Sherrill, the editor of this pamphlet, is a member of the Western North Carolina Conference.

A great-grand-son, the Rev. Norman Lander Prince deceased, was a local preacher who on account of feeble health was prevented from joining the itinerancy. He was the eldest son of Judge George E. and Mattie Lander Prince, of Anderson, S. C. Another great-grand-son, Rev. Dr. John Langdon Weber, is a leading preacher of the Memphis Conference, and his younger brother, Dr. William Lander Weber, deceased, though a layman, was an intensely devout Christian and a widely known educator, having filled the chair of English in both Emory and Millsaps Colleges, and later was President of Centenary College, Mansfield, La. He died in 1911. The last mentioned are sons of Rev. Dr. Samuel A. Weber, of South Carolina.



## THREE GENERATIONS

Born Nov. 12, 1792	Oct. 12, 1812	Born May 1, 1793
Samuel Lander, Sr.	Married	Eliza Ann Miller
Died Dec. 17, 1864		Died Dec. 29, 1875

## Their Children Were:

Born April 29, 1814	Apr. 15, 1835	Born Dec. 1, 1805
Anne Maria Lander	Married	John Weber
Died June 10, 1845		Died June 7, 1861

Born May 9, 1817	May 9, 1839	Sarah Tillman Connor
William Lander	Married	Died April 1, 1863
Died Jan. 8, 1868		

Born Nov. 24, 1820  
George Lander  
Died Sept. 15, 1821

Born Sept. 15, 1822	Dec. 17, 1844	Born Feb. 25, 1814
Margaret Jane Lander	Married	William I. Langdon
Died April 15, 1892		Died Aug. 24, 1859

Born Dec. 14, 1824  
Eliza Ann Lander  
Died Nov. 3, 1877

Born Oct 18, 1831	Dec. 8, 1857	Born Feb. 21, 1834
Sarah Catherine Lander	Married	Samuel Pinckney Sherrill
Died Sept. 15, 1865		Died Jan. 17, 1913

Born Jan. 30, 1833	Dec. 20, 1853	Born Nov. 4, 1833
Samuel Lander, 2nd	Married	Laura Ann McPherson
Died July 14, 1904		Died Dec. 2, 1914

Born Feb. 25, 1835	Feb. 25, 1854	Born March 12, 1833
Martha Suzanna Lander	Married	Eli H. Fulenwider
Died May 19, 1855		Died Nov. 5, 1874

## Children of John and Ann Lander Weber

Born April 28, 1836		
Elizabeth Ann Weber	Married	Rev. Geo. H. Wells, Dec'd.
Died Aug. 25, 1862		

Born Jan. 19, 1836	Nov. 19, 1861	Born Oct. 31, 1840
Samuel Adam Weber	Married	Sarah Alston Langdon
		Died

Dec. 27, 1899	Emma C. S. Jeffreys
Married	Died Jan. 4, 1909

Born April 27, 1840	Oct. 7, 1861	Born 1830
Margaret Louise Weber	Married	Jerome B. Fulton
		Died 1871
	June 7, 1876	Born March 24, 1839
	Married	James Wm. Seay



Born Sept. 24, 1842  
 John Simpson Weber      Married  
 Died June 2, 1900

Born Feb. 16, 1845  
 Sarah Narcissa Weber  
 Died Sept. 8, 1845

#### Children of William and Sarah Connor Lander

Born Nov. 4, 1841 Samuel Lander, 3rd Died Sept. 20, 1908	Married July 26, 1882	Born Oct. 1, 1859 Alice Jenkins
Born March 30, 1844 Julius Alexander Lander Died Sept. 3, 1844		
Born Aug. 15, 1846 Mary Agnes Lander	June 24, 1868 Married	Born Aug. 18, 1837 Dr. John Means Lawing Died March 8, 1894
Born May 16, 1848 El'a Lander Died Born 1850 William Lander, 2nd Died 1871	Married	Dr. G. Lagare Connor Deceased
Born March 20, 1853 Frank Connor Lander Died July 7, 1902	Dec. 15, 1880 Married	Born Sept. 15, 1861 Louisa Templeton
Born Jan. 1855 Jasper Stowe Lander Died Sept. 3, 1856		
Born March 8, 1859 Clara Connor Lander Died July 19, 1878 Born Warren Lander Died		

#### Children of Rev. Wm. I. and Margaret Lander Langdon

Born Samuel Lander Langdon Died		
Born Nov. 4, 1847 Alice Deems Langdon Died Aug. 13, 1890	Sept. 24, 1868 Married	Born Aug 11, 1831 Marcus Ammon Died
Born Aug. 24, 1851 Ida Elizabeth Langdon Died May 1, 1881		



## Children of S. P. and Sarah Lander Sherrill

Born Feb. 9, 1860	May 21, 1884	Born Jan. 26, 1862
*William Lander Sherrill	Married	Sarah Luetta Connor
Born Feb. 24, 1862	June 6, 1885	Born Sept. 25, 1843
Bettie Lee Sherrill	Married	Edward Wilkinson Ward
		Died Dec. 13, 1897

## Children of Samuel Lander, 2nd, and Laura McP. Lander

Born Oct. 31, 1854		
Lily Lander		
Died Oct. 4, 1856		
Born Oct. 4, 1856	Jan. 24, 1878	Born Jan. 24, 1855
Martha McPherson Lander	Married	Geo. Edward Prince
Born Dec. 17, 1858	Jan. 14, 1886	Born Sept. 3, 1862
John McPherson Lander	Married	Sallie Thompson Hall
Born Feb. 27, 1861	Dec. 25, 1889	Born May 27, 1868
Wm. Tertius Lander	Married	Hannah Ford
		Died Aug. 13, 1894
	Married	
	Nov. 4, 1914	Susie Rumph
Born Sept. 26, 1863	Nov. 29, 1888	Born Nov. 23, 1870
Augus McPherson Lander	Married	Eliza W. Porcher
Born Dec. 19, 1865		
Neil McPherson Lander		
Died July 1915		
Born Feb. 12, 1868	Aug. 27, 1896	Born Jan. 27, 1845
Kathleen McP. Lander	Married	John Owens Wilson
Born June 19, 1870	Oct. 10, 1901	Born June 14, 1877
Malcolm McP. Lander	Married	Rosa Olivia Dantzler
Born Dec. 17, 1872	Oct. 8, 1902	Mary Eliza Matthews
Frank McP. Lander	Married	Died
	Married	
	Nov. 15, 1916	Bessie Barnes
Born Jan. 20, 1875		
Christie McP. Lander		
Died Sept. 17, 1877		
Born Sept. 17, 1877	June 15, 1905	Kizzie Ezzell Jones
Ernest McP. Lander	Married	
*Their son		
Henry Connor Sherrill	Married	Bettie Dixon King
Born July 9, 1885	June 3, 1914	Born April 27, 1885
They have one child, Sarah Elizabeth Sherrill, Born June 12, 1917.		



Daughter of E. H. and Martha Lander Fulenwider

Born Feb. 2, 1855	Dec. 18, 1877	Born Dec. 2, 1851
Mary Elizabeth Fulenwider	Married	Reuben McBrayer
		Died July 12, 1892

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The absence of complete data and the difficulty of promptly securing it is the explanation for not publishing a full list of the descendants after the third generation.



**THE HONORABLE WILLIAM LANDER**

1817-1868

**Jurist—Orator—Legislator**

By William Lander Sherrill

Lincoln County though small in territory has been the home or birthplace of many noted men. From revolutionary times down, each generation has produced its share of these, and while the people have always appreciated these leaders of thought and sentiment, they have generally been too modest to laud their virtues or even make simple record of their brilliant deeds. It is a fertile field in which the historian may glean to preserve the splendid record made by so many rare and brilliant men.

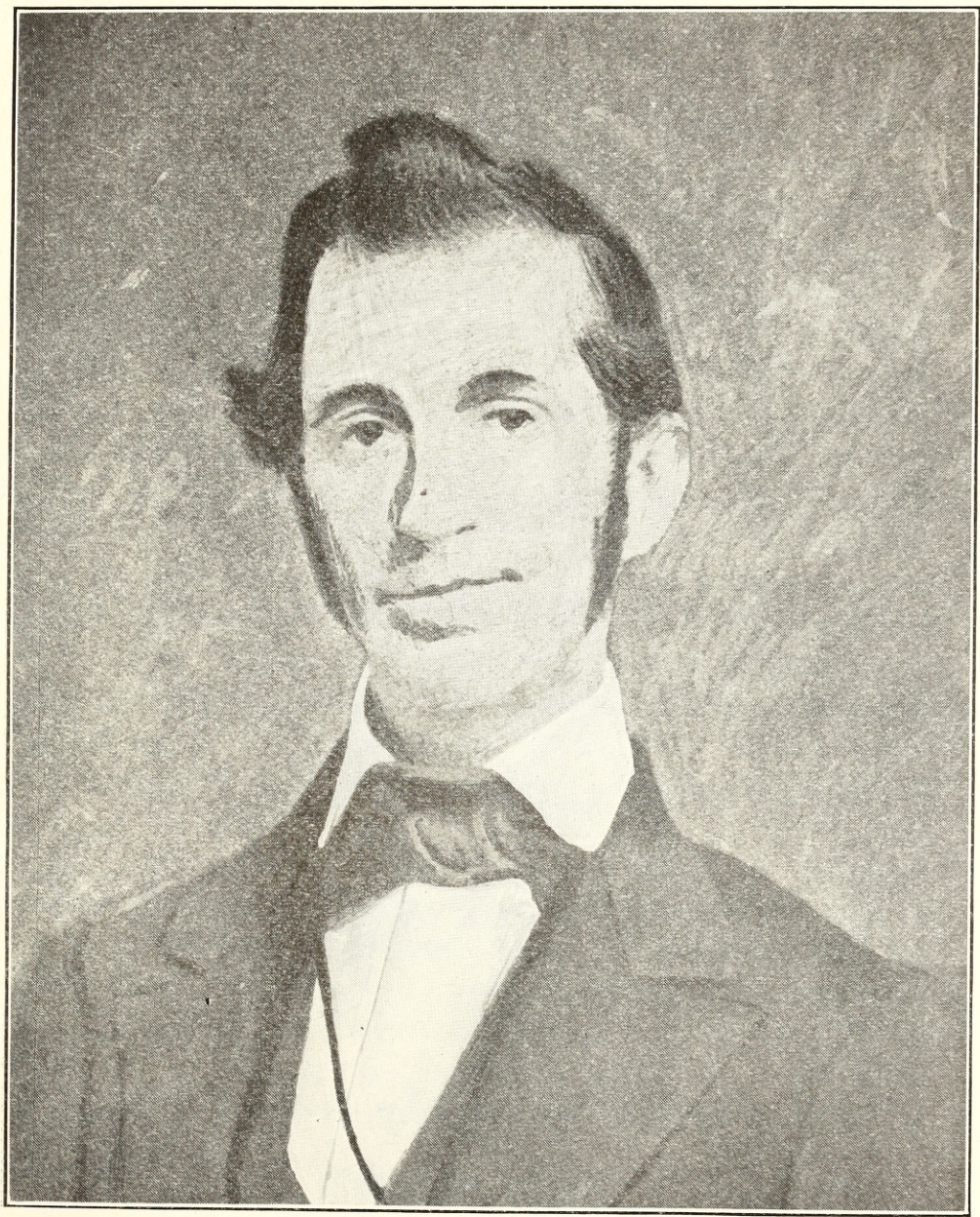
Massachusetts and Virginia have, to their credit, kept a full record of their history and if our people had been half so faithful to preserve our past we and our children would appreciate more genuinely the honorable service which the generations gone have rendered the State and Nation.

**Distinguished Jurists**

Lincoln County has been famous for its distinguished jurists and for the great number of them for a century past. Among them were Michal Hoke, Bartlett Shipp, James R. Dodge, Alfred and Robert H. Burton, Haywood W. Guion, William Lander, William P. Bynum, William M. Shipp, David Schenck, John D. Shaw, John F. Hoke, and among younger men Theodorus H. Cobb and William Alexander Hoke. The last mentioned only, of this distinguished company, still lives and is an honored Justice of our State Supreme Court.

Several of these were noted judges in their day and almost any one of them would have added distinction to any court or legislative body.





THE HON. WILLIAM LANDER

1817—1868







### William Lander

In this paper I desire especially to give some facts relating to the life of the late Hon. William Lander, who ranked high in the regard of his notable compeers.

It has been my purpose for many years to prepare a paper setting forth some of the characteristics of this brave and brilliant man, but I have postponed the task to this late day when about all his old friends and contemporaries have passed beyond and therefore it is impossible to secure much rich material which was lost by the death of those who possessed it. This much, however, has been gathered from various sources and records and will enable the reader to get a better knowledge of the man and the times through which he lived.

He was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, May 9, 1817, eldest son of Rev. Samuel and Eliza Miller Lander and came with his parents to America in 1818. A few years later they settled in Lincolnton, N. C., and here he spent the remainder of his life. On May 9, 1839, he was married to Miss Sarah Tillman Connor, daughter of Doctor Francis Connor, of Cokesbury, S. C. He died in Lincolnton January 8, 1868, and was buried in the family plot in the Methodist graveyard there.

Every great man is the son of a great mother. Mr. Lander's mother possessed a mind of rare brilliancy, stored with a wealth of knowledge gleaned out of all literature and his father, too, was a man of wonderful strength of character, mental vigor and sanctified common sense. These parents did their best by their children and their son William was given all the advantages to be secured in the schools of his day.

### His Childhood

He was a precocious child. In his early teens he showed signs of remarkable mental vigor and was a diligent student at the old Lincolnton Academy where he received instruction from his uncle, Prof. J. W. Murphy, a teacher of rare gifts and scholarship. Later he attended the Cokesbury (S. C.)



school and was a classmate there of the late Holland N. Mc-Tyeire, who later became a distinguished preacher, bishop of the Methodist Church and founder of Vanderbilt University.

At Cokesbury young Lander was soon distinguished among the student body for his rare intellect and ability in debate and was admired by the whole community for his magnetism and warmth of heart.

There dwelt in Cokesbury in those times a quaint and eccentric Methodist preacher, James Donnelly, of whom most all the boys were afraid but young Lander was a great favorite with him. When Lander was preparing for a debate or to speak on some phase of philosophy, the old preacher would say to the young orator, "All right, Lander, the audience will think it a great speech because they won't know what it means." He regarded Donnelly a very great preacher especially because of his imaginative power and severe denunciation of sin.

When Mr. Lander finished the course at Cokesbury he returned to Lincolnton and read law with Col. James R. Dodge, then a prominent member of the Lincolnton bar for whom he formed a friendship which was never broken.

### Colonel Dodge

Colonel Dodge possessed superior literary gifts and on one occasion, I think it was at Rutherford court, while associated with Hillman, Governor Swain and Thomas Dews, in the defense of some litigants, he hurriedly scratched off the following verse and laid it on the desk of Dews:

"Here lies a Hillman and a Swain,  
Their lot let no man choose,  
They lived in sorrow, died in pain,  
And the devil got his Dews."

Quick as a flash, Thomas Dews, who was a brilliant genius, wrote the following reply for the benefit of Colonel Dodge:

"Here lies a Dodge who dodged all good,  
And dodged a deal of evil,  
But after dodging all he could  
He could not dodge the devil."



Col Dodge was a native New Yorker and a nephew of Washington Irvin, the noted author. He was overtaken with financial misfortune, and the homestead law not then in effect, all his personal goods were sold for debt. The handsome collection of Irving's works, a gift from his distinguished uncle, was sold with his other property. Mr. Lander bought these books and presented them back to Colonel Dodge, who very greatly appreciated the gracious deed. Colonel Dodge was for many years clerk of the Supreme Court and a man of broad culture and learned in the law. He was, too, the grandfather of Hon. R. B. Glenn, late Governor of this State.

### Lander County Solicitor

Soon after his admission to the bar Mr. Lander was elected county solicitor under the old system which made it his duty to prosecute in all criminal actions in the county court. One of his first cases was against a man of high position in the county. He was influential and strong minded and when Mr. Lander began his argument this man determined to abash the young attorney and look him out of countenance. This, however, had the contrary effect of inspiring the young lawyer to greater effort. He made a powerful appeal to the jury and convicted the defendant, who never afterward fully regained standing with his neighbors.

This single legal victory distinguished Mr. Lander at once and from that time he never lacked for clients.

He was a Democrat in politics and while not a seeker of political position was active in support of his friends. In 1848, when only 30 years old, he was the Democratic candidate for the State Senate and was sure of success but the day before the election Mr. Henry Cansler, one of his political friends discovered that he was ineligible, the Constitution at that time requiring that a Senator should possess 300 acres of land, for one year at least, immediately preceding his election. He owned the amount of land but had not held it for the required time. At once he withdrew and rushed messen-



gers over the county giving notice that Hon. Henry W. Connor had taken his place on the ticket. The next day Major Connor was chosen by a large majority over Honorable Barlett Shipp the Whig candidate.

### Lincoln Delegation

In 1852 the Lincoln delegation in the House of Commons was composed of William Lander, J. A. Caldwell, John H. Wheeler and Henderson Sherrill. The law which required a Senator to own 300 acres of land also required that the voter should own 50 acres in order to vote for Senator. The Democratic party in the canvass of 1852 waged battle against that law which tintured of aristocracy, and advocated free suffrage instead. In the Legislature Mr. Lander was an active and leading supporter of legislation which freed North Carolina from a qualified suffrage.

By way of digression let me say that Hon Stephen A. Douglass in 1850 made a visit to Hon. David S. Reid, of Rockingham.

The Whigs had long controlled the State. Douglas told Reid that the land qualification for suffrage was contrary to American ideas of equality and freedom and if the Democrats would make free suffrage the issue in the next campaign they would wrest the State from Whig control. The Democrats heeded the suggestion of Senator Douglas and sure enough in 1852 Reid was elected Governor over Hon. John Kerr and the Democrats have controlled the State, with brief exceptions, ever since.

In the same legislature of 1852 Mr. Lander was elected State Attorney or Solicitor for his judicial district over William P. Bynum, the Whig candidate. He was peculiarly fitted for that responsible office. His years of active practice had made him an extraordinarily well furnished lawyer and eminently qualified to cope with the legal giants who contested with him in the courts. He was an advocate who had no superiors and few equals before a jury. The late Judge



David Schenck who knew him well and appreciated his splendid gifts, and who too, was widely acquainted with the North Carolina bar, more than once said:

"I have traveled all over North Carolina and listened to all her great orators and lawyers and have never heard one who was the equal of William Lander before a jury."

### The Langford Case

Some time after he entered upon his duties as solicitor the noted case against Langford for the murder of his wife was tried in Lincoln Court. There were about 150 witnesses and all the evidence was circumstantial. Mr. Lander appeared for the State, personally examined every witness and made no memorandum or note of testimony, but in the concluding argument before the jury, from memory reviewed the testimony of every essential witness and after a speech which took him a full day to deliver the defendant was convicted and sentenced to death.

While he felt morally sure of Langford's guilt, yet the evidence, all being circumstantial, he feared the possibility of having convicted an innocent man. This fear, however, was relieved when Langford on the scaffold, just before his execution, confessed his guilt and further said that:

"Mr. Lander in his speech before the jury had described in his imagination the scene and circumstances of the murder as vividly and accurately as if he had been present and witnessed the deed."

A gentleman who heard his argument in that noted trial said it was a powerful appeal to reason and the finest oratorical effort he ever listened to. He not only knew how to carry a jury but he thoroughly knew the fundamentals of the law and the history of its growth from Runnymede all the way down to the establishment of American liberty.

### As a Criminal Lawyer

The late Judge Badger, one of the greatest North Carolinians of the past, once testified that as a criminal lawyer he hardly had an equal in the State. The late Mr. Cyrus B.



Watson told the writer that he was noted for his ability to draw an indictment so free from flaw or technical error that opposing counsel was never able to quash it. Further on the same line he referred to a bill of indictment for murder recorded in either Yadkin or Surry, which was drawn by Mr. Lander and which was a model form and guide for lawyers. His large judicial circuit gave him full opportunity to expand his talents and his fame as a lawyer and orator became State-wide.

### **Governor Ellis**

In 1858 Mr. Holden who had dictated Democratic policies in North Carolina for two decades, was ambitious for the nomination for Governor and when the party leaders met at the Charlotte Convention that year it looked as though he would succeed. The west was for Judge Ellis and such leaders as Mr. Lander, Mr. W. W. Avery and others, after a very spirited contest finally secured the nomination for Ellis and from that time the influence of Mr. Holden began to wane in Democratic councils.

In the contest which followed at the polls Mr. Ellis was triumphantly chosen Governor over Duncan K. McRae.

In 1860 the mighty storm began to brew.

### **Charleston Convention**

The Southern Democrats were alarmed at the turn things had taken in the North since the memorable Douglas-Lincoln debate in 1858. They wanted assurance that Southern rights would be protected and regarded with a measure of suspicion the promises of the Douglas leaders.

The National Convention met in Charleston April 23, 1860. Among the leading men in the North Carolina delegation were Bedford Brown, W. W. Avery, William Lander, William S. Ashe, Walter L. Steele, Robert P. Dick, L. W. Humphrey and Dr. Columbus Mills. Mr. Lander was made chairman of the North Carolina delegation and W. W. Avery chairman of committee on resolutions. The two-thirds rule was



adopted and no ballot was to be taken until a platform was agreed on.

### Dred Scott Decision

The Southern delegates and a minority of the Northern portion believed in the Dred Scott decision and held that slave property was as valid and entitled to the same protection everywhere, under the Constitution, as other property.

The Douglas delegates on the other hand stood firm for popular sovereignty, holding to the theory that States and Territories should decide the question according to local sentiment. Therein came the hitch.

The Southern majority report demanded Federal protection to the slave property in the Territories but the Douglas faction wanted the platform of 1856 reaffirmed, leaving the Territories free to act for themselves. The Douglas men had a majority on a straight vote and forced their platform, whereupon the delegations from the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Florida and South Carolina bodily withdrew from the convention but Virginia and North Carolina thought it better for the time at least to "abide in the ship," for while the Douglas forces could make the platform they could not nominate a candidate repulsive to the South under the two-thirds rule.

Forty-eight ballots were taken without a nomination. Ben Butler, of Massachusetts, though instructed for Douglas, violated his State's request and voted every time for Jefferson Davis. Finally, after 10 days of fruitless effort to agree the convention passed a resolution to adjourn to meet in Baltimore June 18 and the Douglas leaders shrewdly added to the resolution a request that the "Democratic party of the several States make provision for supplying all vacancies in their delegation to this convention, when it shall reassemble." The significance of this request will be seen later.

Returning from Charleston, Mr. Lander stopped in Charlotte and addressed a large audience in the court house and



The Charlotte Democrat, of May 22, 1860, gives a partial report of his speech as follows:

“He was opposed to war. If the Union must be dissolved, as he hoped would never be the case, the States that remained in the convention would have to bear the first shock of civil war and it is but natural that their citizens should do all in their power to avert such a calamity. While opposed to the doctrine that Congress or a Territorial Legislature had power or right to legislate against slavery in the Territories, he was also opposed at this time to demanding a slave code for the Territories, but was in favor of non-intervention, for if the right of Congress to interfere on the one side was acknowledged, then the same right would be claimed by the enemies of Southern institutions to intervene on the other side. Some who withdrew demanded that the convention should acknowledge the right of intervention. But those who have been all their lives fighting for Southern rights deemed it unwise at present to spring that question. In concluding a very able speech he hoped that an acceptable nomination would be made at Baltimore and a platform adopted to the entire satisfaction of all Southern Union loving men.”

### Action of Convention

When the convention reassembled in Baltimore the resolution as to vacancies was interpreted by the Douglas majority to mean that the delegates from Southern States who withdrew at Charleston were no longer delegates, the act of withdrawal on their part eliminating them entirely and actually they filled some of their places with Douglas men.

After long and spirited debate it was finally made clear that harmony could never be reached except by a complete surrender to the Douglas majority. The South with such vast property values at stake regarded such a policy as unthinkable.

### Others Withdraw

Finally the delegation from the conservative States of Virgi-



nia and North Carolina concluded that the time to withdraw had arrived. After the Virginians took leave, Mr. Lander, of the North Carolina delegation, said:

Mr. Chairman: Painful as the duty is, yet nevertheless, it is my duty as one of the representatives from the good State of North Carolina, call her Rip Van Winkle if you will, to say that a very large majority of our delegation is compelled to retire permanently from this convention, on account, as we conceive, of the unjust course that has been pursued toward some of our fellow citizens of the South.

The South has heretofore relied upon the Northern Democracy to give us the rights which are justly due us, but the vote today has satisfied the majority of the North Carolina delegation that these rights are now refused and this being the case, we can no longer remain in this convention.

### Others Join

Then delegates from all the border States, together with those from California and Oregon, withdrew. Even Caleb Cushing, of Massachusetts, who had presided over the convention to that hour, vacated the chair and with Ben Butler and several other Massachusetts leaders joined in with the Southern delegates and nominated Breckenridge and Lane.

The North Carolina delegates who stood for Douglas to the last were Robt. P. Dick, William W. Holden and J. W. N. Watson. The Douglas faction then proceeded promptly to nominate Mr. Douglas for the Presidency and Herschel V. Johnson, of Georgia, for Vice-President. Then came the break that gave Lincoln the Presidency and freedom to the slaves. But it was inevitable. The South with the immense interests it had at stake could do nothing less than its representatives there did.

Southern Whigs joined with the Northern Conservatives and supported John Bell, of Tennessee, for President and Edward Everett, of Massachusetts, for Vice-President.

### The Campaign

The campaign which followed was the most spirited the country had ever seen. The champions of each candidate were active from start to finish of the long and bitter struggle.



Mr. Lander was of course enthusiastic for the Breckenridge ticket, making many speeches during the campaign. Immediately upon his return from Baltimore there was a great mass meeting of his fellow citizens held in Lincolnton. In a speech on this occasion, reported in the *Charlotte Democrat*, July 10, 1860, he gave a detailed report of the Charleston and Baltimore Conventions, portraying the injustice sought to be perpetrated on the South by men "who came to Baltimore for Douglas or nothing."

"His account of the chicanery practiced to exclude the regular State delegations from the South and the admitting of the bogus delegations, some of whom had never cast a Democratic vote and of the vindictive power which sacrificed the noble Hallett, made every heart beat with indignation and the applause which met his appeal for his vindication in repudiating such men, told that his fellow citizens at home appreciated and loved him for his action.

"Mr. Lander claimed that Breckenridge and Lane were nominated by the National Democrats and as such would go before the country, but especially did he appeal to the South to sustain the only platform of principles where her rights were distinctly recognized and to rally to the support of nominees upon whom there was no spot or political blemish, men who have both sustained their country's honor on the bloody fields of Mexico and adorned her councils with their wisdom and eloquence. His speech was a magnificent vindication of his course and a masterpiece of argument and eloquence."

### Vance and Lander Debate

In October, 1860, just two weeks before the election, Mr. Lander and Zebulon B. Vance, the young lion from the mountains, met in Newton in a joint discussion of the issues.

Vance was a supporter of Bell and Everett and opened the discussion with a speech of about two hours in his own characteristic style, in which his points were clinched with anecdotes. Of course he stood for the Union and assailed Democracy for its rebellious spirit. He eulogized Andrew Jackson, commended his course in the days of nullification and asked Mr. Lander when he came to reply, to say what he would do, if Lincoln was elected. He made of course an able defense of the old Whig party and pleased his friends with his open, manly and powerful argument.



### Lander's Reply

Mr. Lander when he came to reply was greeted with prolonged applause and in most caustic and withering style exposed the weakness of the Bell party, the inconsistency of Mr. Bell on the Nebraska bill, and his anti-Southern record, and the subterfuge on which he relied for a platform was held up in contempt to his audience. He gravely depicted the crisis of the country and depreciated the use of ridicule and comedy at such a time as this when men should be seriously considering the safety of their homes and firesides.

He told his fellow Democrats "to beware of Whigs who praised dead Democrats," for it was part of their scheme to mislead. In reply further, he said that he did not think the election of Lincoln would in itself be a cause for secession but that it was impossible to judge of the consequences which might surround that event, and that he held himself ready to cast his lot with North Carolina whatever it might be.

The debate was a contest of giants. The Whigs were satisfied with the argument of their great champion and the Democrats, who were largely in the majority, all thought that Lander won the day.

The four-sided contest resulted in the election of Lincoln who received 180 electoral votes while Breckenridge got 72, Bell 30 and Douglas only 12.

### Convention of 1861

The election of Lincoln filled the South with consternation. South Carolina hastened to secede and other States followed but North Carolina, noted for her conservatism, was slow to take that serious step and gave 1,000 majority against the convention. The whole country was worked to a fever heat. Fort Sumter fell the 13th of April and still North Carolina had taken no action.

The Legislature then without a further referendum called an unrestricted convention to meet in Raleigh May 20, 1861. Mr. Lander was the delegate from Lincoln to that convention



of very able men, which included Thomas Ruffin, Bedford Brown, George Howard, R. P. Dick, Kenneth Rayner, W. M. Shipp, John A. Gilmer, J. W. Osborne, William S. Ashe, Col. William Johnson, Robert Strange, William A. Graham, David S. Reid, George E. Badger, Kemp P. Battle William W. Holden, Burton Craig, H. C. Jones, R. F. Armfield, Weldon N. Edwards, and others. Many of these were already well schooled in statecraft and many others were destined later to become distinguished in service to the State.

The only living member now of that body of distinguished men is Dr. Kemp P. Battle, of Chapel Hill.

He counted William Lander as one of the best and strongest speakers in the convention. Mr. Battle writes:

I belonged to the Badger-Graham party, while Mr. Lander was classed with the original Secessionists, but I regarded him as a very able, honorable, courteous, high minded man, and he was considered one of the best members of that very able body.

He was identified with the Clingman-Craig party and voted for the ordinance of secession introduced by Burton Craige. It is remarkable that when the final vote was taken it was unanimous for the Craige paper. Governor Ellis tendered Mr. Lander the appointment to the judgeship which he declined, but was soon thereafter elected without opposition to the Confederate Congress, from the eighth district, which embraced the counties of Cleveland, Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Union Cabarrus and Rowan, and then his brilliant friend and law partner, David Schenck, was chosen to succeed him in the convention as the delegate from Lincoln.

### Congress of Confederacy

It being the first Congress of the Confederacy the body was all new, but Mr. Lander took high rank as a speaker and able supporter of the Davis Administration. His most notable speech was in opposition to the Gaither resolution which reflected upon the consistency of the Secession record of North Carolina. From that speech we glean the following paragraphs:



"Nothing could be more unpleasant than to reply at this time to my honorable colleague for whom I have the highest personal regard, but the vindication of the truth of history as well as justice to my constituency, demands that I enter my most unqualified dissent to some of the allegations made by my colleague. He states and I know not on what authority, that North Carolina has always denied and repudiated the right of Secession and I join issue with him there.

"The Democratic party which has been in power most of the time for 25 years past, upheld it as a constitutional right and to call the gentleman to the record proof I will state here that I had the honor of being a member of the convention which dissolved the connection of North Carolina with the old Government of the United States and in that convention the Hon. Burton Craige introduced the ordinance of Secession. Judge Badger offered a substitute which did not either deny or admit the right of Secession and appealed to the convention to adopt his substitute as a concession to those members of the body who denied the constitutional right of Secession. The convention by a pronounced majority, rejected the Badger substitute and then passed unanimously the ordinance containing and recognizing the right to secede.

"My colleague has also thought proper to say that the conscription act, though very odious and believed to be unconstitutional, had been faithfully executed in North Carolina. Here again I beg to take issue with him and I give it as my opinion that the conscription act has not been regarded in North Carolina as either odious or unconstitutional and for my own constituents I can speak with certainty, for on my own return home after the passage of the conscription act I was met with congratulations for having sustained a measure which had saved the country, but on the contrary, I believe that the intelligent and patriotic citizens of the State consider it the wisest and most commendatory act that this Congress has ever passed.

"Further, I beg to say that I cannot for my life see the necessity for the adoption of the resolutions by the North Carolina Legislature, and if I had been a member of that body I should have opposed them because North Carolina had previously plighted her faith to stand by and defend the Confederacy with both men and money to the last extremity and I can see no cause for making any new confession of faith unless there had been some falling from grace.

"But if nothing more was necessary to vindicate her patriotism she can proudly refer to her more than 60,000 brave soldiers on the battlefields of the Confederacy and to the thousands of her noble sons who have shed their blood and sacrificed their lives in the vindication of the honor and patriotism of North Carolina. She needs no resolutions to show forth her loyalty but I can tell you the cause of their introduction. The House of Commons passed the ten regiment bill which came in direct conflict with the conscription act of the Confederacy and which had it become a law would have reflected upon the fair fame of the body which passed it, but thanks to the patriotic Senate it was killed by a large majority, so now the advocates of that bill think it necessary to do something to retrieve their falling fortunes and hence the resolutions.



As to the Conservative party of which the gentleman speaks I will simply state that the only principle which I know they consistently adhere to is to put the 'ins out and the outs in.'"

In an address announcing his candidacy for re-election to Congress, Mr. Lander said:

#### Abstract of Speech

"Since the time of my election to Congress the Confederacy has been engaged in a stupendous war for the purpose of driving back the ruthless invaders of its soil and in establishing the peace and independence to which it is justly entitled. Overtures having been repeatedly made by our Government to terminate hostilities and settle the existing difficulties by negotiations and honorable adjustment and these overtures having been as often indignantly rejected, no alternative remained but to drive back the invaders and conquer a peace by force of arms. I have used as your representative every exertion in my power to strengthen and increase the Army, to give proper assistance and encouragement to the Executive and to prevent as far as possible those disastrous collisions between the civil and military authorities which are so apt to occur and which are so difficult to adjust in time of war.

"I voted for both conscription acts, not because I desire to force the Southern citizen from his home and family to the camp and battlefield, but because I considered it indispensable to the independence of the country.

"I voted to raise the pay of non-commission officers and privates in the Army because I believe they both deserved and needed it.

"I voted against the exemption acts, not because I was opposed to all exemptions, but because I considered these acts wrong in principle, dangerous in policy and unjust in many of their discriminations.

"I voted for the funding bill because I thought it necessary to reduce the volume of currency and thereby to give more healthy action to the finances of the country.

"In fine I voted for every measure which I thought would give strength to our Army and vigor to the Government and confidence to the country. I desire peace as ardently as anyone and shall use every honorable means to secure it, yet I will consent to no adjustment which does not bring with it the independence of the Confederate States, their total separation from the United States and all the blessings of liberty to which we are entitled by inheritance. Our cause is just. Our trust is in God. Our destiny I firmly believe is to be victorious in this struggle and to enjoy a career beyond all parallel. Let us prove ourselves worthy of our cause and worthy of our destiny."

#### Comment on Speech

The Charlotte Democrat, always conservative and safe, in concluding a lengthy report of a speech which Mr. Lander



delivered in Charlotte just before the election, made the following closing comment:

"Though we have not and may not take an active part in the present canvass we will say that as an honest and conscientious public man William Lander has no superior. Unimpeachable in his private and public life, industrious and energetic, he merits the confidence of the people."

"Less than this we could not say, more is unnecessary."

There had from the start been a strong union sentiment in the State as evidenced by the rejection of the first call for a Convention, but once into the strife the war party did not anticipate much opposition from the original peace element. In 1862 the peace party did support Vance for Governor and elected him over Col. William Johnston by 24,000 majority, but as the war continued and Vance was developing as one of the greatest of war Governors, the Administration at Richmond felt secure as to the result of the congressional election.

### Lander's Defeat

The administration was solidly behind the candidacy of Mr. Lander for re-election and his friends were sorely disappointed when it was found that he had been defeated by Dr. J. G. Ramsay, of Rowan, by only 147 votes. As only three of the ten Congressmen from North Carolina were re-elected the friends of Mr. Lander regarded his defeat not so much the result of personal opposition, as the expression of a temporary though general sentiment in which it was his misfortune to be one of the victims. While he was hopeful of the final victory of the South, in giving that opinion he voiced the general Southern sentiment and that of many people of the North. When we recall that as late as 1864 with McClellan a candidate on a peace platform which proclaimed the war a failure, Mr. Lincoln, himself, far-seeing politician that he was, became so alarmed as to the result that he did not see a week before the election how it was possible for him to secure a majority of more than three in the Electoral College, but in the course of time when the result was known he had carried



all but three of the States and had 191 electoral majority, it proves that the wisest may err in judgement before the fact.

### Last Speech of Lander

Mr. Lander never held any public position after his retirement from Congress, but continued the practice of the law and the last speech he ever made was in defense of Owen for murder at Gaston court in August, 1867. Judge James W. Osborne and William P. Bynum prosecuted and Mr. Lander, David Schenck and Governor Vance defended, which proves that there were giants in those days.

Mr. Yates, in *The Charlotte Democrat*, commenting on the trial referred to the high courtesy and respect the opposing lawyers exhibited for each other in the conduct of that hotly waged contest.

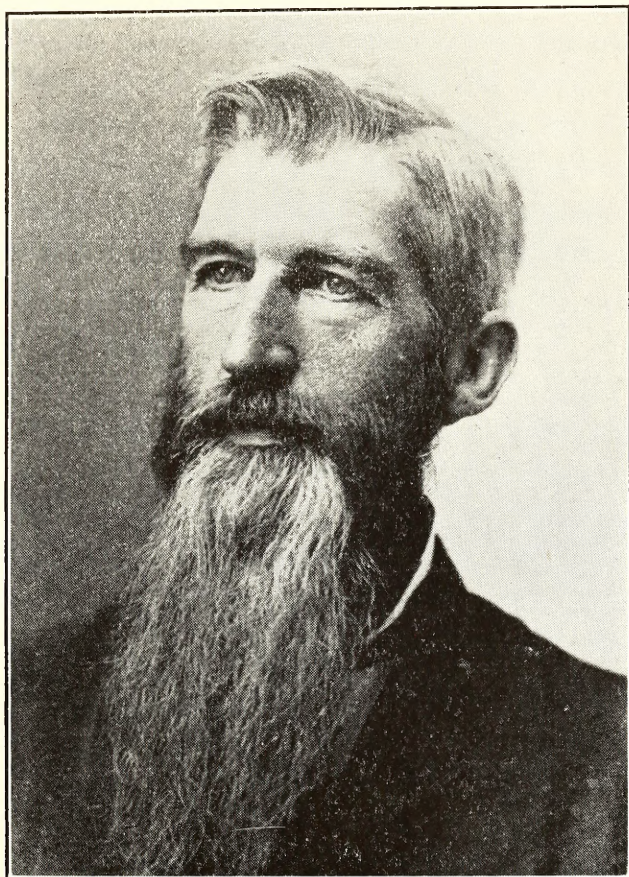
The great orator must be a man of absolute sincerity. He must believe with all his soul the truth he utters. In a resume of the characteristics of Mr. Lander, it should be stated that he possessed rare native oratorical gifts that had been cultivated by long experience and training and in his latter days he was widely recognized as one of the superb orators of the land.

### Lander as an Orator

The late Col. John F. Hoke, a very competent critic, classed him as one of the most polished and finished speakers in the South in an age, too, when oratory was in flower in Dixie. His perfect intonation, graceful gestures and musical voice, his classic English, his resistless logic, his overpowering earnestness, and his persuasive eloquence, all combined, stamped him as a master of assemblies.

I have often heard my father say that Rev. Henry H. Durant, a Methodist presiding elder, and Mr. Lander were the most eloquent speakers he ever heard, and that while Durant sometimes failed Lander never failed.





THE REV. SAMUEL LANDER, A. M., D. D.

at 40

1833—1904







### **Lander's Preacher**

During the sitting of the Convention of 1861, Durant passing through Raleigh visited the Convention as a spectator. Mr. Lander knew him as a South Carolina preacher and had the presiding officer invite him to conduct the opening religious service. It was said that the prayer that he offered wonderfully thrilled and moved that very thoughtful body of men and at its close a large number of the delegates went forward and spoke to the visitor, whom they always afterward referred to as "Lander's preacher."

### **Mrs. Lander's Death**

While at Richmond in the Confederate Congress he was called home on account of the illness of Mrs. Lander. Rushing to the railway station to catch the first car going South he learned that there would be no train for several hours except a military train just about to depart. In attempting to board this car he was politely but positively informed by one of the officers that he could not travel on it. He remonstrated with the officer and finally stated that sometimes circumstances were superior to law and that this was one of those times and that he would therefore go on that train or die. The commanding officer took in the situation and to remove the technical objection made him temporarily a member of his staff and thus secured him passage to the South.

Mrs. Lander died, however, before he reached his home.

### **Lander as a Student**

He was a hard student. He delved deep into the law and into every department of literature, poetry, history, science, philosophy. He knew Shakespeare thoroughly and was familiar with the ethical teaching and the wide range of history covered by the Bible.

He had the capacity to scan a book at a sitting, gather all the salient points and remember to the last day every fact worth retaining. He never forgot a date, a detail or an in-



ident and possessed the rare ability of commanding any fact stored away in memory just when he needed it. His verbal memory was something wonderful, and made him ready and accurate in quotation in his extemporaneous speaking.

### His Characteristics

It has often been said that intimate knowledge magnifies the weak points in character, so that no man is therefore great in the estimation of his valet. Mr. Lander possessed many elements of greatness and one strong proof of the statement is that his warmest and most intimate friends regarded him most highly.

His personality grew in the estimation of men as he was better known by them. His warm magnetic heart and well furnished mind combined to make him the most companionable of men. His wide fund of information and fluent speech made him a conversationalist of rare brilliancy.

He loved his friends and all he had belonged to them, for he was by nature generous, free-handed and full of the milk of human kindness. His door stood wide open to his friends and his hospitality was far famed and general.

Gentle as a woman he was always merciful.

Brave as a lion he was a stranger to fear.

His superior ability and chivalrous spirit commanded the highest respect and admiration from that large company of brilliant men who grappled with him in the forum and on the stump.

One of these has beautifully said:

"He was a brilliant impetuous, chivalrous and noble gentleman, who passed by the stately honors of the judgeship that he might enjoy the more splendid triumphs of the forum, and whose brilliant eloquence found congenial fellowship amid the fiery spirits of the Confederate Congress."

In politics he was a Democrat of the Calhoun-Macon strict constructionist school and held firmly to the constitutional right of Secession.

Believing in the righteousness of the Southern cause he went



his full length to support the principles upon which the Confederacy was built. He threw his all into the breach and took a bold stand with his people. He was a red-hot Secessionist when the conflict was inevitable and with all his section, wanted the barriers between the North and South to be as impassable in figurative phrase as "rivers of blood and mountains of fire." But while he was enthusiastically sure of final triumph he calmly predicted a long and fierce contest. When the cause was lost he felt keenly the disappointment with his people.

He was a very bright and enthusiastic Mason and to the end of his life was active in its councils. At his death he held the position of senior grand warden of the Grand Lodge. Because of his complete mastery of the Masonic ritual he was high authority in Masonic circles.

Being well trained in a positive Christian home he had a firm faith in God, the greatest regard and reverence for religion and was all his life a generous supporter of the Methodist Church, which was his faith, though he never became a member.

He was the friend of education and from 1859 to 1867 was a trustee of the State University.

When he died the State lost one of her most loyal and patriotic citizens. Had he lived she would surely have further honored him with responsible public position.

### His Children

His children have all died except the eldest daughter, Agnes, widow of the late Dr. J. M. Lawing, who still abides in Lincoln, in the old residence of her father, where she was born and where she has continued to dwell ever since.

### His Toast to Woman

His chivalrous spirit is revealed in the beautiful tribute he paid to woman, responding to a toast at the celebration of July 4, 1848, in Dallas, N. C.



### Woman

In infancy the guardian angel who watches over us; in youth the inspiration which gives us vivacity; in manhood the smile which impels us to deeds of emulation; in old age the stay of frail mortality, and in death the oracle which points us to blissful immortality.

### Conclusion

More than fifty years have passed since the close of the great Civil War. Nearly all the heroic men who wrought in that mighty contest have passed over the river and now rest under the shade of the trees. The wondrous changes time has wrought since peace was made were never dreamed of by the patriotic leaders of the sixties. Those terrible days are behind us now. The wide breach has been healed. A mighty Nation has been built on the ruins of the past and sectionalism is now almost forgotten.

To clearly understand the conditions which surrounded our fathers in 1861 we must go back as nearly as possible to their time and look from their angle at the difficulties they faced, in order to appreciate fully the problems they tried to solve. Remember that slavery as an institution had for two hundred years been taking deeper root in the Southern soil, that it represented vast millions in property, that it permeated every Southern commercial interest and that it completely molded Southern thought and sentiment. A great system like that, accepted without question by long generations could not be uprooted without a terrific struggle. That conflict was bravely sustained by our fathers. Let us not forget the devotion to principle and the heroic self-denial which they practiced in the days that tried men's souls. To even think about it should do us good and inspire us with high resolve to do our work today with a measure of faithfulness akin to that which they put forth in doing their work in their day. That we might thus gain a clearer view of that past is one reason why this paper has been written.



## THE REVEREND SAMUEL LANDER, A. M., D. D.

1833-1904

Minister—Scholar—Educator

By Mrs. Kathleen Lander Willson

In the home of a staunch Methodist local preacher two remarkable sons were reared. The elder gave himself to the legal profession and became a lawyer distinguished for his profound knowledge of that science, and for his wonderful eloquence. The younger was called to the ministry and gave himself to that and to educational work, and he achieved equal success in these spheres. So that William Lander, the lawyer, was widely known in the old North State, and Samuel Lander, the Christian educator, is a familiar name in the land of the palmetto and pine. It is our special task to tell a little of the life of the younger of these gifted brothers.

Samuel Lander was the son of Rev. Samuel and Mrs. Eliza Ann Lander, and was born January 30, 1833, at Lincolnton, N. C. The South Carolina Conference was in session in Lincolnton at the time of his birth. He was given a prophet's name and he walked a prophet's road. Eminent preparation for life was his good fortune and eminent service was the return he rendered. From the beginning to the end he was like Samuel of old, listening to the Divine voice night and day and always saying, "Here am I."

**His Education**

Samuel Lander was sent to school at the early age of four. It was taught by Mrs. Bevins, a native of Charleston, S. C., and particularly well educated for a woman of eighty years ago. The school was "kept" almost all day long. The dear old teacher punished her pupils by putting them into her dining room closet. None of them objected to this treatment, for the closet was filled with jams, jellies and preserves and pupils naughty enough to be shut up there. were naughty



enough to help themselves to the good things. The old lady took occasional naps, but despite this was a good teacher, and little Samuel profited by being under her influence.

Even before entering Mrs. Bevins' school the little boy had learned his letters and had been taught to read by a Miss Jacobs. During his first year at school (at the age of four) his uncle, Rev. J. W. Murphy, gave him some lessons in Greek and the study of Latin soon followed. Both of these classics were taken up before English Grammar. From Mrs. Bevin's school the boy went to the Male Academy and taught by Mr. Murphy, who was a noted teacher in his day. He was a native of South Ireland and was educated for the Romish priesthood, but became an ardent Protestant, a High Church Episcopalian. He was a fine classical scholar, and a rigid disciplinarian. "There was only one rule in the school," Dr. Lander often said, "and that was twelve inches long and one inch wide, usually applied to the palm of the hand." Being an Irishman Mr. Murphy had not all the patience in the world, and did not hesitate to pop over the head with his beloved Latin Grammar the boy who failed to learn its contents. He was very proud of his little nephew who was in a class of big boys, and he was delighted with the child's great fondness for the languages and mathematics.

After teaching a few years at Lincolnton, Mr. Murphy moved to Lexington, North Carolina. Our young student's life was much the same as in any village school. At recess the boys played cat-ball, stealing clothes, and shinny. (Football is a product of modern pedagogy). On Friday afternoons they "said speeches," a time honored custom too little observed now-a-days. At the close of a session an "exhibition" was usually given with all that word can mean. On one occasion the boys gave Mrs. Caudle's Curtain Lectures. Samuel Lander, being one of the smallest boys in the school, was selected to impersonate Mrs. Caudle, and was dressed in cap and gown, while John Shuford, a great big boy, was the poor, henpecked Mr. Caudle.

At this period he began the study of music. His sisters at



home taught him to play the piano and the guitar, and he went after his school hours were over to the Female Academy, where Mrs. Rogers, the music teacher, gave him lessons in sight-singing. A little later he studied at a singing school taught by Rev. Mr. Hank, an excellent teacher from Virginia.

Mr. Murphy moved to Lexington about 1846. In a year or two the youth, Samuel Lander, followed his uncle there to prepare for college. He boarded in Mr. Murphy's family and had all the advantages this cultured home could give. Here he studied with the greatest diligence. During part of the time at least, he compelled himself to submit to great physical discomforts. For instance, he would sleep on a hard bench to discipline himself to endure hardships in case they ever came. Perhaps he had heard his uncle tell of the lives of privation led by the monks while studying for the priesthood. Perhaps he thought that severity had had something to do with the remarkable literary attainments his uncle had made, and his boyish mind may have fancied that if he made himself uncomfortable he would some day know as much as the uncle whom he revered. We cannot account for all a boy thinks or does.

At the age of sixteen and a half years he was ready for college, and Randolph-Macon, Virginia, was selected by his good old Methodist father. In 1849 there were no railroads in North Carolina, so the long journey was made in a carriage. The trip from Lincolnton to Boydton, Virginia, occupied almost a week. The journey was usually broken at Yanceyville, where Sunday was spent at Poteat's Hotel. This hostelry by the way, was conducted by the father of the distinguished Dr. Edwin Poteat. The young student entered Randolph-Macon College when the old institution was almost at its zenith of prosperity and fame. William A. Smith was president, and Dr. David Duncan, Professors Charles B. Stuart, John C. Wills, and O. H. P. Corprew, made up a fine faculty. He entered the Sophomore Class in the fall of 1849. He was examined in Latin and Greek classics, which he had

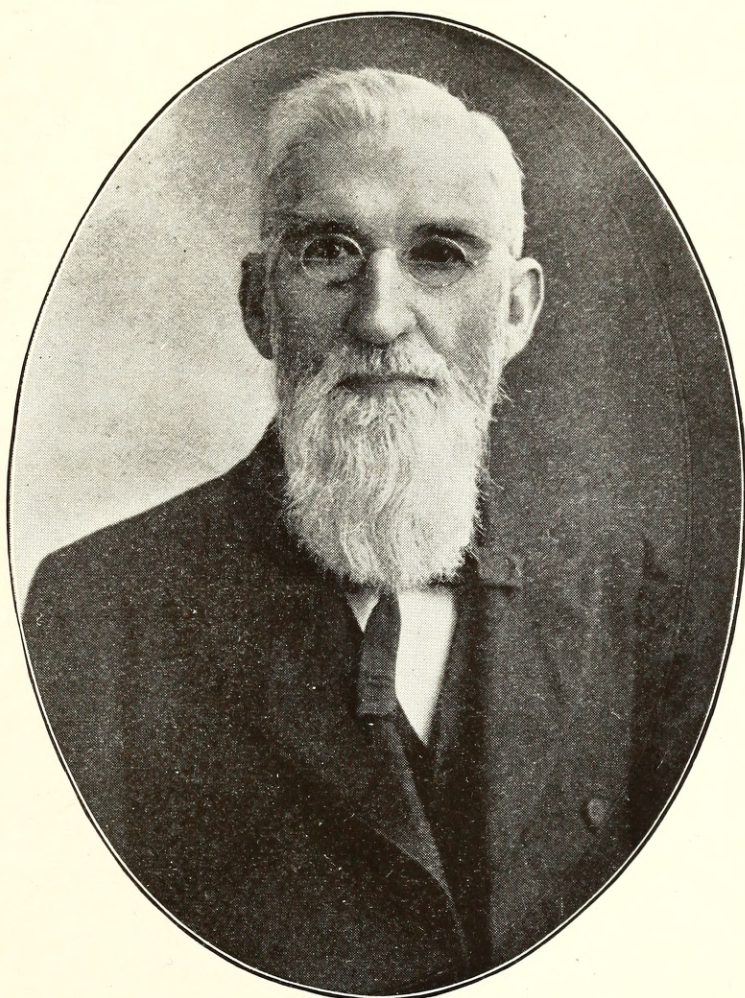


read carefully six years before, when only ten and a half years old, and was fully approved.

Samuel Lander's habits at college were most painstaking efforts at culture. Of course in a college for men the idea of teaching penmanship would have been hooted at. But the young student realized that to write a beautiful hand was a great accomplishment, so he got for himself a copy-book and every day wrote a small portion as nearly like the copy as he could possibly make it. The result was that in early life his writing might have been mistaken for an engraver's work. Another illustration of his effort to improve himself was shown in his daily walks. Of course they were arranged for exercise and recreation, but he would invite a college chum to go with him, suggesting that they confine themselves to some object of study in which they both were interested. He mentioned chemistry among other subjects thus discussed. Such earnest and painstaking habits of study would have made him an educated man at any college or at no college.

At the end of his Junior year, the strain of hard study proved too much for him, and his health, which was never robust, gave way completely. He managed to stay at college until the final examinations were over, then having official permission, he hurried home before commencement for repairs. This journey was made in the stage-coach. On the way a fellow passenger was attracted to the pale-faced youth, and during their conversation the stranger recommended the medicinal value of dogwood. Soon the stage stopped near a dogwood tree, the kind man got out and cut a branch of twigs and put his new patient at once to chewing them. The bitter juice proved a tonic and a help for digestion, and before the young man reached home he was much better. Throughout all his life he was a great believer in dogwood twigs. During the vacation he spent most of the time out doors helping on the farm, and by the next fall he was sufficiently built up to return to Randolph-Macon and begin his Senior year. On the back of his report which was sent to his father June, 1851, the president of the college wrote: "Your son has suffered





REV. SAMUEL LANDER AT 70 YEARS OF AGE







somewhat in his health the past session, chiefly, I suppose, from his close confinement to study, but I hope nothing serious will result. His studies next year will be comparatively light; and with two months rest and recreation, among his friends, I doubt not will go through with ease." A note written by Dr. Smith on the first report must have been most gratifying to the father's heart. It read:

Dear Brother: This son of yours is a first rate boy, and a first rate scholar of his class. You will not be ashamed of him. If you have any more of the same sort left, please send them on and oblige, your friend, W. A. Smith."

His report sent in his Senior year contains the message: "Samuel still maintains a high character as a gentleman and a scholar."

One of his favorite chums at college was Virginius Parham, a bright young man whose standing in class was almost identical with his own. Young Parham also broke down in his Junior year and had to go home sometime before the close of school. The following quotation from a letter written by Mr. Parham during the vacation of 1861 shows the close friendship existing between these two rival students:

"Dear Sam: I am in hopes that these lines may find you entirely restored to health. As for myself I have improved a great deal since my arrival in Richmond, and am at present as well as usual. If I continue in as fine health as I now enjoy, I will return to college and hope to join you once more in peaceful strife. We are destined it seems (and I hope it will be so) to be side by side all through our collegiate course. I am happy to say that your fortunate disposition does not allow us to act, as is so often the case, with envious or inimical feeling toward each other. And I can rejoice that while you are my rival in a friendly warfare, I am enabled to recognize in you one whom I sincerely admire and respect. I have always and still do number you among my choice friends, and shall be happy to see the same relation ever sustained."

A few paragraphs follow about the recent commencement both had missed. Then comes a request which shows that our young student had devised a system of shorthand which he used in college. Mr. Parham writes: "I have been induced to learn stenography. So if you will send me a copy of the synopsis that you showed me of your construction I shall be highly obliged to you." Virginius Parham died before the opening of the next session. In his exceeding mod-



esty, Dr. Lander always said that if his friend had lived, the honor of being valedictorian might not have fallen where it did.

One little incident occurred at college which may have led him to the habit of learning everything possible about every study. It was the night before examination in Geometry. An older student whom the boys called "Father Adams" came to his room and asked if he were ready for tomorrow. He replied that he could demonstrate every proposition in the book except one, the "12th of the 8th." Father Adams suggested that he'd better get that one clear in his head. So he went to work and mastered that difficulty. Imagine the feeling the young student must have had when next morning he drew from the hat as the only proposition he must demonstrate, the 12th of the 8th! He went through it so beautifully as to call forth the warmest praise of his professor. From that time to the end of his life he made it his rule to know all about every subject; not one single proposition was omitted.

The graduation of Samuel Lander was June 10, 1852, when he delivered the valedictory and received his diploma. But this was only the commencement, in very truth, of the student life which kept up to the end. At once he returned home and began the study of civil engineering, doing some practical work in the survey of a road from Charlotte to Lincolnton. To gratify his elder brother, he took up the study of law, and while he was always gratified for the knowledge he obtained during these months, the law had no charm for him, and he gave up the course to resume the broader field of letters.

During his later years he gratified his love for language by studying, without a teacher, German, French, Spanish and Italian, and he was able to read these languages, though he never ventured to speak them. In 1878, Trinity College N. C., conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. His modest soul seemed oppressed by this honor. He remarked that he was certainly unworthy of the title for he did not even know the Hebrew alphabet. At once, however, he set about studying that language, and it was not long before



he could read the Old Testament in the original text. He afterwards made it a rule to read a few verses in the Hebrew Bible every day. Later he became very much interested in Volapuk, the world-language, and mastered it. When in 1889, his oldest son went as a missionary to Brazil, Dr. Lander began the study of Portuguese in order to read the Brazilian papers and keep up with the affairs in that land. He frequently wrote letters in Portuguese. Just three years before his death he took up the study of the Irish language.

### His Marriage

December 20, 1853, a little while before his twenty-first birthday, he married Laura Ann McPherson, his life-long sweetheart. There were eleven children born to them, the first dying in infancy. For more than fifty-three years the currents of their lives were blended and at their golden wedding day their romance was as real as it was in '53. The resilience of her nature, the sunshine of her soul, the buoyancy and kindness and goodness—yes, and faith—these were what she brought into his life and who could live in such a presence and fail of greatness?

### His Life Work

After his work on the survey and the partial study of law, he entered upon the work for which Providence intended him—teaching. His first service was at Newton, N. C., with Henry Hildreth Smith, the father of Hoke Smith, United States Senator from Georgia. The next year he taught at Olin. In 1855 he was adjunct Professor of Language at his Alma Mater where he also took an A. M. course. Receiving this degree he went back to Olin, and a year later was called to a Chair in Greensboro Female College. Upon the death of Rev. William I. Langdon, the presidency of High Point Normal School, founded by Mr. Langdon, became vacant and Samuel Lander, although only 26 years of age, was made president. Three years later he took charge of the Lincolnton Fe-



male Seminary and after six years at this post was elected president of Davenport Female College. At the division of the conference he moved into South Carolina and taught one year with Dr. S. B. Jones at Spartanburg Female College, and in 1872 was removed to Williamston where the rest of his life was passed. In all these schools his success was remarkable; in those where he had charge the attendance increased and the teaching improved.

While at High Point he prepared two text books at the request of the Educational Board of North Carolina. These were "Our Own Primary Arithmetic," and "Our Own School Arithmetic." The South being shut off from the outside world could not obtain text books and had to produce them. These Arithmetics were so satisfactory that they were used long after the War between the States was ended. He published a Verbal Primer in 1864. For many years it was thought to have been the first ever written which did not begin with the alphabet, and certainly he had no access to any book of the kind in preparing it. He would read these lessons to his little daughter and son and if any word puzzled them, he would change it to a simpler one. The lessons were suited to some cuts sent from England.

### Williamston Female College, Now Lander College

The *magnum opus* of Dr. Lander is the college which now bears his name. Here he was untrammelled by anything—save the lack of funds—and was free to plant and develop the seed thoughts he had been gathering for twenty years. At the conference of 1871 he was appointed preacher in charge of Williamston Circuit with the understanding that he would supplement his salary teaching. On reaching his field, after full conference with his Presiding Elder, the Rev. R. P. Franks, he leased the old hotel building and on February 12th opened the Williamston Female College, which was incorporated in 1873. Seventeen boarders and twenty-one pupils from the town were enrolled on the first day. These



were joined by others and when the year closed, 61 students were in attendance. Encouraged by this success, the hotel property was bought by Dr. Lander and his friends, and in 1873 it was enlarged.

His purpose was to found an institution which would give thorough education to young women; and his further purpose was to put it under the control and at the service of his conference and church. The education of the young women at that time was lamentably defective, embracing chiefly what might be termed ornamental studies. He determined to make it cover the substantial branches of an education and he insisted upon thoroughness and accuracy. These aims he pursued during his life. And it can be modestly claimed that he was a leader in the movement to make the education of women equal to that of men. He was too wise to attempt too much at the beginning, but was content to advance by degrees, insisting upon accuracy all along. It was not long before the Williamston woman (now the Lander woman) was recognized as having a thorough education, and as one who was efficient wheresoever duty called her.

At Williamston he developed several distinct ideas of his own. The first was a system of reviews taken along with college work. He found that students entered with deficient knowledge of the elementary studies, and he determined to make up for these deficiencies. So all the school was required to take the lessons in Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, etc. In this way his college graduates could spell correctly as well as construe Cicero and Virgil. Similar work is now done in many places.

Another educational idea was what has been erroneously styled "the one study plan," but is more than that. Instead of giving a pupil work in Mathematics, Languages, Physical Science and other departments all at once, he had these principal branches taken up one at a time along with reviews and other minor studies. The whole college course was covered in a year, but during each section the students concentrated their work on a principal study and finished it during that section.



By this means thorough scholarship was secured in all the college course. It prevents favorite studies from having more attention than those less popular, and it was found by this concentration of work that the students made greater progress than under the strict class system. This study plan was introduced about 1877. In Lander College it is still pursued with modifications.

In January 1876 he introduced the Kindergarten for his primary pupils, competing with Charleston for the honor of being the first in the state.

Another idea was the simplification of commencements. The showy scenes, the waste of time and extra dressing that generally obtained in colleges for women were cut out and only the sermon and addresses of such occasion were retained.

These innovations were doubted, but they have proven their usefulness. Dr. Lander believed that "the education of girls was a serious and vital business and that close application to study, thorough discipline and broad and accurate scholarship was as necessary and as helpful for girls as for boys." And all means for securing these results he was not only willing but determined to use. Education at Williamston, as at Mount Holyoke, "was meant for culture and not mere accomplishment."

The founding of a school is a great achievement. The founding of a school to stand "for essential womanliness, and honesty and thoroughness of work" is a still greater achievement. At the Founder's Day services, some remarkable testimonies were given him and his college: Dr. W. P. Few, President of Trinity College, said:

"So far as I know the old Williamston Female College was a pioneer among southern colleges for women in the handling of solid intellectual wares. The battle for plain, straightforward honesty in education has not been completely won, and the man who started the fight in a part of the field where it was most urgently needed ought to be remembered with gratitude."

Dr. T. N. Ivey, Editor of the Nashville Advocate, said:

"No history of American education, no catalogue of high American exploits, no record of American success built on the self-sacrifice of God-filled hearts can be complete without the name of Samuel Lander, the Evangel of Christ and a Christian educator."



Bishop John C. Kilgo declared:

"It is not going too far to say that Dr. Lander knew how to make education a saving force, that he knew how to reach and bring out those energies of mind and spirit which make for real progress, that he rigidly distinguished between the frivolous and the vital qualities of mind and character. By fidelity to his belief he has sent out into this commonwealth a young womanhood whose distinct traits are seriousness, sincerity and womanly integrity. He has founded an institution that has a clear and definite mission to young women."

Dr. Stonewall Anderson, Secretary of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, bears this testimony:

"Samuel Lander belonged to the last generation, we to this. In recounting his worth and his deeds we do honor to his memory and at the same time serve our generation. Lander College belongs to both his day and to ours, for it is and is to be the work of his hands as well as of ours. I wish to speak to you this evening on the "Triumph of Dr. Samuel Lander's Idea on the Education for Women."

Dr. John G. Clinkscales, of Wofford College, declares:

"Of the four men that had most to do with shaping my life Samuel Lander was by no means the least."

In his address Dr. H. M. DuBose, editor of the Methodist Review, said:

"These commonwealths have had great sons in the civic and political spheres. Which of them has added a more enduring element to the forces that are to expand and preserve their lives than this man who educated so many of their sons and daughters, and who, dying, left behind him so substantial a contribution to Christian culture?"

Other testimonials from similar men tell the same story.

For thirty-two years he conducted the Williamston Female College in the town where it was founded. In 1903 the city of Greenwood offered fifteen acres of land within the corporate limits and to erect thereon a first class, up-to-date building containing all the necessary apartments with dormitories to accommodate 100 boarding pupils; the whole property to be offered to the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on condition that the college was moved to Greenwood. The offer was accepted. Greenwood went beyond its promise by purchasing a beautiful lot of eighteen and six-tenth acres on which they erected an elegant building with accomodation for about 130 boarders. Dr.



Lander not only united with his trustees in accepting this offer but he arranged for the removal. He selected his faculty and appointed September 27th, 1904 as the date for the transfer. On July 14th, 1904, he passed to his reward. The school was opened on time by his successor, Dr. John O. Willson. In 1911 a new building was added which increased the capacity to 175 boarding students and the teachers staying with them. In 1905 the name was changed to Lander College by the enthusiastic consent of all. And this fine institution stands to day as his greatest memorial.

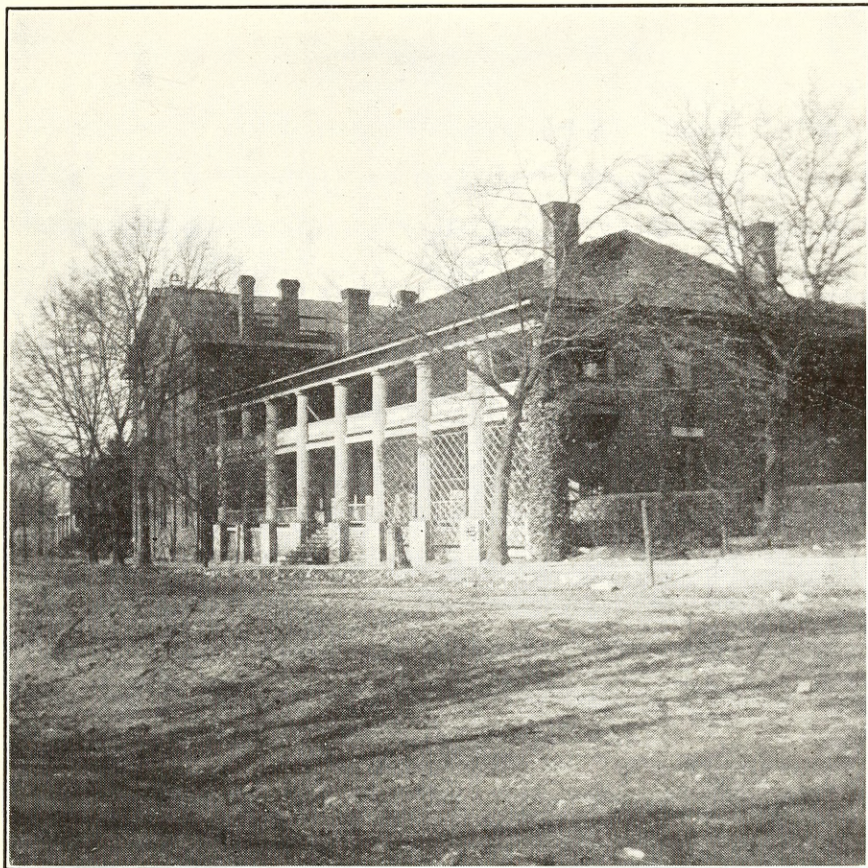
### **His Christian Life**

Reared in a home of piety, Dr. Lander was good and religious from childhood. He never sowed wild oats. Trained in the way of righteousness he had faith in God, but not until he was fifteen years old did he profess saving faith in Christ. This was in 1848 a little while before he entered college when visiting one of his sisters in Beaufort, N. C. A revival meeting was in progress, and he attended the services, became very serious, sought for salvation, was converted and joined the church. So obedient and good outwardly, had he always hitherto been that his mother often remarked that the only change she could notice in Samuel was that after his conversion he ceased to engage actively in boys' sports. He lived to the end of his days a beautiful, devoted Christian life.

### **As a Preacher**

In 1861, Dr. Lander felt called to preach and was licensed as a local preacher on March 30th. In 1864 he was admitted on trial into the South Carolina Conference. His appointments were: 1865, Lincolnton Female Seminary; 1866-67, Lincolnton; 1868-69-70, President of Davenport Female College, Lenoir, N. C.; 1871, Spartanburg Female College; 1872, Williamston Circuit and President of Williamston Female College; 1873, and to his death on July 14th, 1904, President of Williamston Female College. In addition to his work in





**WILLIAMSTON FEMALE COLLEGE, WILLIAMSTON, S. C.**

**Established by Samuel Lander in 1872**

**Moved to Greenwood, S. C., in 1904  
and Name Changed to Lander College**





the college, he served Williamston Station in 1877-78-79, and Williamson Circuit in 1885 and 1889. In the conference he was a most useful member, serving faithfully on many committees and boards. Besides he was Statistical Secretary for many years. He served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Conference Brotherhood from its organization in 1885 until it was absorbed by the Nashville Brotherhood in 1904. He was a member of the General Conference in 1890 and 1894.

The gifts of Dr. Lander as a teacher were so conspicuous and the demand for his service so great that he was given little opportunity in the ordinary pastorate. But he had marked success when engaged as pastor. In 1867 when in charge of the church in his native town of Lincolnton he conducted a revival meeting which continued for six weeks and a great multitude was converted and fully one hundred joined the church. It was the greatest meeting ever held in that congregation. But for the most part his school was his charge and his pupils his congregation, and well he met the demands of both. He often longed for the pastorate but realized that to teach the young was truest preaching and to care for the choice young women of the South was worth any man's gifts. His son, Dr. John M. Lander, of Brazil, says:

"I must mention his evangelistical influence over his girls and his well rewarded efforts for their conversion. No one will ever know how many young tender hearts he led to Christ as he talked to the mourners around "the altar of the church" or prayed or reasoned with them in his own study at the college. One by one or in classes he often invited his pupils to an "after meeting" in the study and showed them the way more perfectly, leading them into the light of the marvelous love of the Father."

Dr. Lander was a preacher of superior gifts. His sermons were prepared with great care. In the pulpit his style was simple, tender and impressive. His utterances were as clear as a sunbeam and a child could understand him. He believed the word of God—was orthodox. He examined new things but his clear mind detected the fallacies of so-called "new thoughts" and kept him in the old paths wherein is the "good way."



### As a Citizen

Dr. Lander kept in touch with the currents of the day and fully recognized his duties as a citizen. No burning question nor public interest was neglected. He threw himself into all movements for the welfare of his town, county, state and nation. Dr. Clinkscales says that in 1871,

"Williamston had four stores, one cotton gin, one tannery, three churches, one small school house, a mineral spring and three bar-rooms. The churches and the academy were sandwiched between the tannery and the mineral spring on the one side and the devil and Saluda river on the other. Not a very desirable place for building a female college, you say? Yes; and no. A man had come to town—a man of both physical and moral courage. Samuel Lander modestly announced his plans for founding a college for the education of women, and boldly declared his purpose to drive out the damnable whiskey traffic from the little town over which the curse had settled like the blackest midnight. This aroused all the antagonism and bitterness of the liquor dealers, the bums and slugs of the community. Nothing daunted, the courageous leader, backed by such noble spirits as W. L. Prince, George W. Anderson, J. E. Pickle, Elijah Horton, and others, pressed steadily forward toward the accomplishment of his purpose. Things got hot; yes, that's the word—they got mighty hot. The liquor element tried to intimidate the prohibitionist. But it was no go. The toughs threatened the Tar Heel who dared to come here to teach the Palmetto boys the meaning of good morals. Still that small band of determined men, lead by the dauntless Lander, went forward. The battle was not wholly one of words. I betray no secret when I tell you that there were a few clashes of the opposing forces—a few fisticuffs, a few broken noses, a little blood-letting. The leader of the movement for a dry town was never attacked on the street, for the boys soon learned, despite his uniform courtesy and politeness, that God Almighty made Samuel Lander a man before He made him a preacher; and in making him a preacher, He made him no less a man. Dr. Lander believed in God, in humanity, and in the righteousness of the cause he espoused."

Liquor was driven out and Williamston got to be a most delightful place to live in.

### Personal Characteristics

Dr. Lander was of slight figure, medium height and was utterly unostentatious, but inevitably commanded attention in any assembly. Modest and retiring, but gifted in mind, courteous and considerate towards all men he could not avoid exerting a strong influence anywhere. Some of his firmest



friends were among the plain and illiterate people; some of his warmest admirers were among the intelligent and influential.

He was ready to learn from all men. Having occasion to wait on a train he climbed into the cab of an engine on a side track and began to ask the engineer about the locomotive. In that hour he declared he learned more of mechanics than ever the books had taught him. On a cross-country ride, he noticed that the driver had on a pair of shoes of peculiar make and he inquired about them. The man who hitherto had been disinterested "began to talk about the kind of shoes he wore, about shoes in general, about preparation of leather for shoes, and about the making of shoes of all kinds and quality. He had worked in a tannery when a boy and for twenty years in a shoe factory." Dr. Lander found his theory that something could be learned from everybody was emphatically true. In this way he learned many things which few men know.

### Summary

The life and influence of Dr. Lander were devoted without stint to the service of his day and generation. No duty was despised because it was small, none neglected because it was great. He was an independent thinker and had the courage of his convictions. In every department of life he was faithful and effective, but God made him to teach young women. There he was at his best and there he had no superior. "The Lander woman" was early recognized as a woman of admirable character. He and his good wife found some way to awake the very best in their students and so send out into the world winsome, womanly women who blessed home and neighborhood; or, if called to distant fields, impressed in far off Missions the people of those distant lands with the beauty and charm of the highest type of life. And their names are household words all over the Carolinas and sister states and under the Southern Cross and in far Cathay. Only God and eternity can tell the result of the life of Samuel Lander.



## THE EDUCATIONAL WORK OF DR. LANDER

From an address made by Dr. John O. Willson at a meeting of College representatives in Winston-Salem, N. C., March 18, 1908, the following is selected:

### Characteristics

Beyond all doubt, Dr. Lander's greatest success as a teacher or as a manager of a school grew out of his personality. His pure life, his refinement, his sympathy, his modesty, his enthusiasm, his openness to truth, his patience, his capacity to love and awake love, these splendid characteristics were fully developed.

But to these gifts of nature Dr. Lander added large and accurate scholarship. He knew far more than most of our best educated men, and he knew all accurately, minutely, thoroughly. While unusually gifted in language-study, he had also special gifts for mathematics, science and all that constitutes a liberal education. He could teach in any department and often did so. It was never necessary to send an inquiry to some specialist when help was sought of him. He was master of all the curriculum and could explain all like a master.

A third characteristic of great value was his love of teaching. It was not an unpleasant work to do; it was a peculiar pleasure. Only the man who loves his work can do well in it. Too often a teacher is employed only as a hateful steppingstone to some other task; perhaps some might be interested most in the money made. Not so with the man we study. Nothing, save teaching the Gospel gave so much real enjoyment as teaching some lesson; and for money he cared too little. Well-nigh all he made went straight back into the institution he might be serving.

Along with these traits was his teachableness. It was wonderful to see how this cultured gentleman of wide knowledge would listen eagerly to some one far less scholarly but



who knew something particularly well. He was not wise in his own eyes. He was ever ready to learn.

### Teaching Methods

Passing other characteristics, let us inquire how Dr. Lander used his gifts; let us examine his career as a teacher.

His gifts were fully exercised in all the schools in which he taught, but to most advantage at Williamston. There, from the moment he decided to establish the college, he determined to advance the usual college course, to raise the standard of teaching, and to insist inflexibly upon thorough learning of a study before advancement to one of higher grade. These are his own words:

"From the outset it was our aim to elevate the standard of female education, which at that time throughout this region of country was lamentably low. To this end we have been laboring with encouraging success from that day to this."

I have quoted from a letter dated April 16, 1904, within three months of his death.

He advanced the course of study beyond anything then obtaining in this section. This was only a beginning. Every few years he added to his curriculum. And this advancement was a fact; every claim he made in his catalogues he more than fulfilled. He despised sham anywhere, and especially in education. If anywhere there should be truth to the word, it surely must be in a school claiming to be Christian.

He required the students to learn not merely to meet classes or be in school for so many months or years. Students came who had been elsewhere graded "99" or "excellent" to find real work required, real knowledge obtained, and to value 75 at Williamston above the perfect records they had been accustomed to. But when they advanced they knew what had been studied; when they graduated they had fairly won their diplomas. No influential parents could induce unmerited promotion nor could avail the better plea of a student working to her limit and yet failing to grasp the lesson.

Dr. Lander found, as did all teachers and as do all today,



amazing deficiencies of students in elementary studies. Many could not spell, could not read decently, wrote execrably, knew little grammar, geography or arithmetic. They were accredited for college from the schools and yet these foundations were not truly laid. He could not endure to send out such students. After mature thought, he placed along with his college work a ceaseless review of these elementary studies, and it came to pass that his graduates could read and write English, as well as stammer some Latin and French.

### Method of Physical Culture

Solicitous of the health of his pupils, he studied carefully the problem of wise exercises. Convinced that occasional violent or protracted efforts were dangerous, he adopted gentler movements and required these daily. One day he saw cadets at "setting-up" drill. Some of these exercises he knew would benefit his girls, and he studied the army tactics and adopted what was suited to women. Long ago he read of "deep breathing" and from the day he felt sure of its value till now his school has had daily deep-breathing exercises. His eyes were ever open to note any good thing, and his girls were certain to share in the benefit of any new method of athletics or anything else.

### Concentrated Study Plan

Dr. Lander not only kept an open eye to see any improvements he could gain of others, but he thought deeply upon education and educational methods. The experience of years convinced him that there was some better method than that in universal use in schools and colleges. Varieties of students, differing ability, losses by sickness or by calls home for good cause, dissipation of energies—these and other reasons forced him to believe that there was possibly a better way than that of requiring the same of the brightest and the dullest, the most faithful and those less diligent. After 24 years of experience, he thought out his chief peculiarity as a teacher,



his plan of "concentrated study," improperly called "the one-study plan." It was this:

The college year was divided into seven sections of five weeks each. The main body of students devoted themselves to the same branch of study throughout one section—for instance, one section is given to mathematics. During that time each pupil makes two recitations a day in algebra, plane or solid geometry, trigonometry or surveying, and one recitation in the parallel minor (review) arithmetic. A second section may be devoted to languages and all the school studies, Latin, French or German, with review English grammar as a minor. In the physical science section a pupil will find her place in botany, physiology, physics, astronomy, chemistry or mineralogy, taking geography as review or minor study. In the belle lettres section the classes are rhetoric, English literature, American literature, logic, psychology, ethics and pedagogy, with history as review.

These are the principal studies. Besides the students have exercises each day in written spelling and English, chorus or sight-singing, penmanship and physical culture, and these, with their regular parallel readings and Bible study furnish sufficient diversion without distraction. At the end of each section examinations are held, reports are filed, promotions are announced and another department is taken up.

So, as long ago as 1877, Dr. Lander found a plan for the promotion by subjects which educators are now urging and which President Charles W. Eliot favors, saying, during the past year: "It is high time the American schools promoted by subjects instead of by the year or half-year." He had perhaps been guided by the university method, but the plan was original with him. It is an ideal plan for securing thorough work with the least waste of strength or time. For, if a girl is not strong, she can study a few sections and then rest, returning after recuperation, or she can take a part of the course at a time. We have had such to graduate this year. And if sickness or absence causes the loss of time to a student, she loses only five weeks instead of a year or half-year. It



follows that the full four years' college course is often completed during the late autumn or winter or spring—it may be at the end of any section—and a student can graduate before the June commencement. This very year students graduated January 14, and one was earning money by teaching on January 20th and another was doing the same on January 27th.

Dr. Lander regarded this study plan as his best contribution to education. It is a pity his thought has not had wide circulation and adoption.

### An Appreciation

From the address at Lander College by William L. Sherrill on the life of Rev. Dr. Samuel Lander, on Founders' Day, January 30, 1909, the following excerpt is taken:

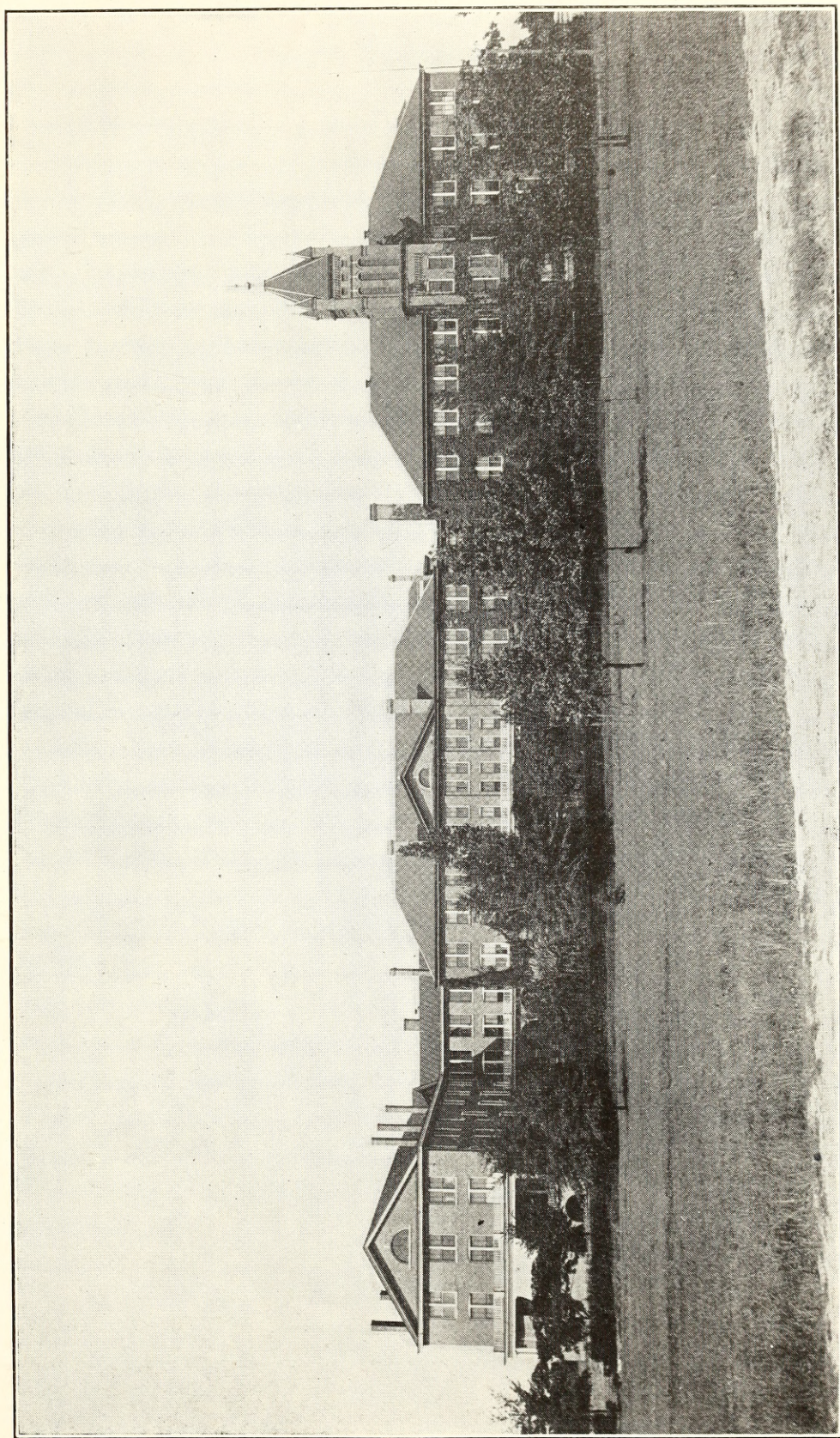
“He was 41 years old—in the very prime of life—when he went to Williamston. All the years had been preparing him for his work and now a ripe scholar, well furnished in head and heart, he was ready to do better work than ever before. From that time you well know his history and the wonderful service he rendered to the church through the college at Williamston.

“Among the strong points in the character of this good man I would say:

“That he had faith—an unwavering faith—in God and in Jesus Christ His Son, and his whole life to the minutest detail was built on that truth. He knew in whom he believed and he considered it his only business in this world to fear God and keep His commandments. Life to him, therefore, was a serious fact, an eternal truth, and to be faithful, and consequently useful, he regarded as the service due from him to God and to his fellowman.

“The possession of such a faith quickened to the tensest degree an already sensitive conscience. He was painstaking in all he did and was never guilty of shoddy work, for he put his conscience into every task.





LANDER COLLEGE, GREENWOOD, S. C., IN 1915







“If it was writing a copy or preparing a lesson or teaching a class or preaching a sermon he, for conscience sake and love for righteousness, was careful of details; appreciating the great value of what we are pleased to call little things, he magnified duty and did his best, and, hear me, he who lives by this rule is charged with righteousness, even to the finger tips, for his common work becomes sanctified service and he worships God in all he does.

“He was a good man—guileless, unsuspecting—he had confidence in human kind and every man who knew him well loved him for his goodness’ sake—and while he, like all men, was subject to human infirmity, yet I have never personally known a man whose life was so nearly ideal, so free from blemish, so full of commendable traits, so rich in good works. His motives were never questioned and from his childhood even down to old age I never heard of an act of his that deserved or called forth an adverse criticism.

“He came to his own when he came to the class room. He possessed all the requisites of a great teacher, namely—faith, humility, magnetism, strong commonsense, accurate and wide scholarship, broad culture and unusual capacity to impart knowledge. If he taught a lesson, absolute thoroughness was his aim, and I shall never forget how, when a very small boy in the reading class, in the Lincolnton seminary in 1867, he kept us during the whole recitation hour on one sentence until we learned to observe correctly the punctuation.

“He not only had the capacity for details, but also for great undertakings. During the time of the Civil War, when communication with the outside world was cut off and necessity became the mother of invention, books were scarce and his thorough knowledge of mathematics enabled him to prepare “Lander’s Common School Arithmetic,” which was the standard in the early days of my school life, and which was used in his school up to recent years until the edition was exhausted. Not only was he skilled as a mathematician, but he was also the master of seven languages. In 1878, when the honorary degree of doctor of divinity was conferred on him by



Trinity College, he felt that he did not deserve the honor unless he was able to read the whole Bible in the original. Already versed in Greek, he at once took up the study of Hebrew and made rapid progress, so that it was his rule in all after years to daily read portions of the Old and New Testament Scripture in the original Hebrew and Greek. A student from his youth, his inquiring mind never ceased to search in new fields and in all fields where truth was hid, and in his mature years his rare and ripe scholarship and varied learning was hard to duplicate.

“Dr. Lander was also a preacher of superior gifts, a teaching preacher. His pulpit ministrations were full of instruction to his hearers. He was a man of prayer and deep spiritual discernment with a heart overflowing with love for sinners. In his earlier ministry in 1867, when pastor in his native town of Lincolnton, he conducted a revival meeting, which continued for six weeks, and a great multitude was converted and fully 100 joined the church. It was the greatest meeting ever held in the history of that congregation. The people had faith in and loved him, both as pastor and friend. His humble spirit was a source of power, as it always is with preachers and other men as well. An old gentleman, capable as a critic, once told me that many years ago, in company with a friend returning from church, after hearing for the first time a sermon by Dr. Lander, his companion remarked that “when Mr.——— was here he stood before the pulpit and his whole demeanor suggested his self importance, but Mr. Lander tries to hide behind the cross and seems to feel that he has nothing to do with the matter but to be a voice, a mouth-piece for his Master.” That was his spirit; he never forced himself to the front, he never sought preferment. He was clothed in humility. He desired not to be ministered unto, but to minister. All honors which came to him came unsought and were an appreciation of his worth and character. Resting in the consciousness of duty faithfully done he cared nought for recognition. He knew that honest work was righteousness and that God would take knowledge of it and he



was too busy with his work to think of the applause of men. Through his long life as a teacher the impress of his personality was marked upon the thousands of young women who came under his tuition. His gentility, his pure life, his guileless nature, his sturdy adherence to principle, his thorough and honest performance of duty—all these, together with his faith in God, which was the foundation of all the rest, appealed to and effected the conduct of his pupils, and they carried back to their homes and through their lives those larger conceptions of duty and service which they learned from him.

“He was all of a gentleman, all of a scholar, and all of a Christian, chivalrous, cultured, consecrated. There were blended in him in just proportion those elements which go to make a nobleman.

“North Carolina has furnished to the church and state a large number of men, who have distinguished themselves in peace and war, but I am sure that only a few of her sons, when final results are measured, have rendered to mankind a service so far-reaching and uplifting as did this humble and unpretentious but truly great man, who, to the end of his days, was busy in season and out of season, striving to prepare the young women of the land for larger life and nobler service.

“He is no longer with us, but his holy influence abides, and his work continues, for when God buries the workmen he still carries on the work.”



## THE REV. SAMUEL A. WEBER, A. M., D. D.

1838—

When the idea of publishing this brief history was first considered it was my purpose not to make prominent mention of any living member of the family; but as Rev. Dr. Samuel A. Weber is the oldest living person in the connection, being now eighty years of age, with a record of service which has given him distinction among South Carolinians, as well as in all Southern Methodist circles, I feel sure that his kinspeople will agree that recognition of his useful life should be given in these pages.

Samuel Adam Weber, son of John and Ann Lander Weber, was born in Iredell County, N. C., January 19, 1838. His paternal ancestors were Dutch people, originally from Holland, who, upon reaching America, first settled in Campbell County, Virginia. From thence they came to Iredell County, North Carolina, in 1800. His mother, Ann Lander Weber, was born in Ireland in 1814 and came to America with her parents in 1818. The Weber's were Methodists from the time of their early settlement in this country and though the Lander's before leaving Ireland were members of the Church of England, many of the connection joined the Wesleyan Methodists in the old country.

When Samuel Weber was only eleven years old he joined the Methodist Church in Shelby, N. C., under the ministry of Rev. Jacob L. Shuford. Later he was prepared for college at Olin Institute, Iredell County, in part under the tutelage of his uncle, the late Rev. Samuel Lander, 2nd. He graduated from Wofford College with the A. B. degree in 1859 and from the same institution received the A. M. degree in 1862. For three years after his graduation he was instructor in the Conference School at Cokesbury. On November 19, 1861, he was married to Sarah Alston Langdon, daughter of the late Rev. William I. Langdon, of the North Carolina Conference. Mrs. Weber's mother came from the famous Alston



family, while the Langdon's, distinguished New Englanders, removed from New Hampshire to Eastern North Carolina early in the Nineteenth Century.

Mrs. Weber was a woman of rare culture and deep piety, indeed a helpmeet to her husband in his life work. She died in 1895. The children by their marriage were: (1) John Langdon Weber, D. D., now one of the leading preachers of the Memphis Conference; (2) William Lander Weber, Ph. D., a prominent educator who filled the chair of English, first in Emory and later in Millsaps College and died in 1910 while President of Centenary College, Mansfield, La.; (3) Lillian Alston Weber Moore, wife of Mr. Leland Moore, a prominent merchant and leading citizen of Charleston, S. C.

Dr. Weber was admitted on trial into the South Carolina Conference at Spartanburg in December 1862. Was ordained Deacon by Bishop Pierce at Newberry in 1864, and Elder at Marion by Bishop Wightman in 1866. His appointments were as follows: Union Circuit (Junior Preacher), Pacolet Circuit, Professor in Davenport College for two years, Anderson Station, Greenville Station, Bishopville Circuit, Union Station, Williamston Station and Professor in Female College for three years, Orangeburg Station, Editor Southern Christian Advocate for seven and a half years, Abbeville Station, Union Station, Winnsboro Station, Yorkville Station, Lancaster Station, Assistant Editor of the Southern Christian Advocate for three years, Supernumerary from 1900 to 1912, Superannuate from December 1912 to the present time.

The total is a record of fifty-five years in the Conference—twenty years on stations, five on circuits, thirteen in college and editorial work, twelve years a supernumerary and five years a superannuate.

He commands not only the high confidence of all his brethren, but their warm and affectionate regard.

On December 27, 1899 he was married to Mrs. Camilla Jeffreys, of Yorkville, S. C., with whom he lived happily until her death which occurred January 4, 1909.

Dr. Weber is widely recognized as a ripe scholar and a



writer of superior gifts. His exceptional record as editor of his Conference paper for long years and his regular contributions to the religious press have given him high rank among the leading men of the church.

Though eighty years of age his heart is young and his mind clear and active. A late number of the Methodist Review contains a brilliant article from his pen, entitled "A Great Pastor-Evangelist," being an appreciation of the life work of a distinguished New England divine, Dr. Stephen Higginson Tyng (1800-1885). Dr. Weber is a scriptural preacher who always goes into the pulpit with beaten oil. His sermons are prepared with great care and then saturated with prayer. He delivers the message as one who believes with all his heart the truth he utters, and his hearers are impressed with the fact that the preacher knows what he is talking about.

Such a messenger always commands a hearing and the word he speaks cannot fail to reach the hearts and consciences of men.

The following excerpt from a recent letter received from Rev. Dr. R. E. Stackhouse, one of his intimate Conference friends, will enable the reader to appreciate the large place which Dr. Weber occupies in the hearts of his brethren of the ministry. Dr. Stackhouse says:

"It was but natural that a man of such character, attainments and usefulness should receive unusual honors at the hands of his Conference and the church at large. In 1892 Emory College bestowed on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. By the election of his brethren he was a member of the Centenary (Christmas) Conference of 1884, and represented the South Carolina Conference in the General Conferences of 1886, 1894, and 1898. He led the delegation in 1898. He was a trustee of Wofford College for twenty-five years, and for many years chairman of the Conference Board of Education. It has frequently been stated in the press that it was a communication of his in the Southern Christian Advocate that started the movement that resulted in the Epworth Orphanage at Columbia, and he was chairman of the first conference committee on the subject. He was chairman of the committee that made the first report to the South Carolina Conference leading to Church Extension, and chairman of the committee that organized the colportage work of the Conference. For sixteen years he was chairman of the committee on examination of applicants for



admission into the Conference, and he has rendered the church a very useful service by the painstaking and tactful care with which he guarded the door to the itinerant ministry.

Dr. Weber is a most instructive and helpful preacher. His method is largely that of the teacher, his analysis of the subject always clear and illuminating, his argument logical and convincing, and illustrations selected from his richly furnished memory with exquisite taste.

As a writer he excels in his command of clear, choice, concise English, and perhaps his most useful as well as distinguished service to the Church has been rendered with his pen. If gathered together his composition, consisting of published sermons, conference reports, editorials, and correspondence (much of it contributed serially), magazine and review articles, and three year's work on our Sunday school periodicals, would make several volumes.

Since the death of his second wife, in January 1909, he has made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Leland Moore, in Charleston, S. C., and perhaps no superannuated Methodist preacher ever passed a serener and happier period of rest at the end of long years of toil. No tinge of sourness or disappointment clouds his old age. He is still a reader of good books, and of many of our church periodicals, and still occasionally writes for the church papers, to the delight of a large circle of readers. He maintains his earlier interest in all young preachers, and many of them still profit from his wise and fatherly counsel."

Personal contact with such a character is an inspiration to any man.

The influence, through many decades, of his work in the class-room, the pulpit and the editorial chair will flow on as a mighty current to enrich and purify the heart of humanity and this influence will never cease to grow so long as the years revolve.

It is cause for thanksgiving that in the evening of his life, there are no heart-burnings, but surrounded by gentle attendants, his heart is filled with love and peace, together with glad assurance that He who has, for these four-score years, guided him through devious paths, still leads and will continue to lead him unto life eternal.

This is written on his eightieth birthday, January 19, 1918.

W. L. S.

THE END

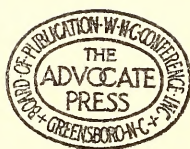


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Sherrill, William Lander, 1860-  
A brief history of Rev. Samuel Lander, s



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